

Willingdon School of the Bible

Equipping the people of God – head, heart and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on his ministry.

Course: WSB 521 Called to Care: Foundations for Caregiving

Who cares? This question often surfaces in modern life and language. Who should care? Shouldn't Christians? Why would we think that, and if true, how are we to go about it? Especially in the midst of a pandemic! This 8-week class will explore the biblical foundations for caregiving, the role and ministry of caregiving, equipping of the caregiver, those who need care, skills of caregiving, downsides & dangers in caregiving, finding balance & direction in caregiving and benefits of caregiving. During the course you will be invited to demonstrate care in a practical way, as well as determine how God may be calling you to be a caregiver in your future. The sponsor of this course is the Willingdon Church Care Ministries.

Instructor: Dr. Ross Johnston (drjjrossj@gmail.com)

Tuesdays | April 13 – June 1 (8 sessions) | 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Course Objectives:

1. To help participants understand the Biblical basis of caregiving and our duty to respond.
2. To help participants see how God has uniquely gifted them to care for others and, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, desire to serve.
3. To move participants to discover & commit to arenas where they may invest their lives in caregiving ministry to others.

Required Reading:

- Kopp, Herb. *Soul Care: Caregiving in the Church* (Winnipeg: Kindred Productions, 2001) 60 pp.

Recommended Reading:

- Gaultiere, Bill and Kristi. *Journal of the Soul: A Practical Guide to Emotional and Spiritual Growth* (Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group, 2021) 240 pp.
- Richards, Larry. *Personal Ministry Handbook* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986) 275 pp.

Student Projects & Grading:

Audit: Read Weekly Pre-class Material, Attend Classes, Interact in Online Groups

Credit:

Pre-class weekly reading, attend all classes, interact in online small groups (25%)

Requires self-reporting that all weekly material was read and classes were attended.

Course text reading & report (25%)

Read Herb Kopp's 60-page book and write a 500-word response to how this book, *Soul Care: Caregiving in the Church*, has personally impacted your understanding of care giving ministry for your life. Also suggest how this may change your future service.

Self-analysis of a personal caregiving ministry experience (25%)

Describe an experience in caregiving you engage in during the course, being careful to protect the identity and confidentiality of persons involved (i.e., use pseudonyms for names). Describe the circumstances, the identified need of the person(s), and what you intended as your plan of action. What biblical mandate were you attempting to fulfil? After the experience was over, analyze how well you think you did, did you meet your objective, what could have been done differently or better? Finally, did you have any indication afterward that the person(s) felt cared for or was helped?

Do an inventory of your spiritual gifts and ministry strengths or calling (25%)

Complete the Modified Houts Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire that will be made available and/or other inventory tool(s) to assess what your ministry giftedness & strengths may be. In 300 words summarize what you discover and your reactions to your findings (Surprised by results? Confirmed what you thought all along? Other?). What kinds of caregiving ministry might this suggest you should seek to be involved in?

Assignments due: June 1, 2021.