

OUR ROLE VS. GOD'S ROLE

THE VISION

Loving and guiding people as a Community Group leader is a great privilege and responsibility. Sometimes, it can be tempting to take things into your own hands rather than trusting God and His timing. When is it “your role” and when is it “God’s role” to care for someone? Below is an overview of God’s role, and overview of your role, examples of the two main roles you can play, what it looks like to control someone, and what it looks like to care for someone.

OVERVIEW OF GOD'S ROLE

- God is the one who saves and sustains us (Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:29).
- God is the originator, the author, and completer of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).
- God changes our hearts (Philippians 2:13, 1 Corinthians 2:10-15).
- God disciplines us for our good so that we may share in His holiness (Hebrews 12:7-11).

OVERVIEW OF OUR ROLE

We get to join and partner with the Creator of the universe in His plans for people experiencing healing and growth by:

- Checking your motives, confessing and praying together so that healing may occur (James 5:13-18).
- Listening (Proverbs 18:13).
- Gently correcting (Galatians 6:1).
- Help carry burdens (Galatians 6:2), but let them carry their load (Galatians 6:5).
- Encouraging (Ephesians 4:29).
- Warning (Ezekiel 33-34).
- Admonishing (Colossians 3:16).
- Forgiving (Ephesians 4:31-32) At the end of the day, these are their decisions. We are called to do all we can do—to do our best—and then rest (go to bed!).

WHAT ROLE ARE YOU PLAYING?

If you are responsible **for** others, you will try to control them. This can result in:

- Feeling: tired, anxious, fearful, responsible, angry, guilty, embarrassed, or lonely.
- Being concerned with: the solutions, answers, circumstances, details, performance, and being right.
- Being a: manipulator, controller, or disabler.
- Your self-worth going down.

Conversely, if you are responsible **to** others, you are free to care for them. This can result in:

- Feeling: congruent, relaxed, free, and aware of reality.
- Being concerned with: relating to the person, sharing yourself so they have enough to make it on their own.
- Being a: helper, guide, friend, parent, or spouse.
- Your self-worth goes up (stays the same in Christ).

CONTROLLING SOMEONE

When you try to control someone, you feel like you are responsible for a person making the right/wrong choice. It's up to and about you. You become that person's savior, rather than God. Here are a few examples:

You try to fix them.

- We are not called to “fix” people. We are incapable of fixing anyone. When we try to do so, we are no longer depending on God, but rather, we are depending on ourselves to fill God’s role.
- See also: Proverbs 16:9, 19:21

You try to protect/rescue them from consequences.

- It can be difficult to watch others suffer the consequences of their sin, especially those we deeply care for. However, by protecting/rescuing someone, you are enabling a bad behavior and robbing the person of the opportunity to learn from their sin (and the resulting consequences).
- See also: Proverbs 20:4, 19:19, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 (10), Galatians 6:5

You try to control them.

- Everyone is responsible for their own actions. We are not called to control others, and frankly, we are unable to. We are held responsible to allow for differences, be direct, and speak the truth in love.
- See also: Ezekiel 33:6-9, John 7:17, 7:37, Luke 9:3-5

You try to carry their feelings.

- It is good to sympathize and even empathize with another’s feelings, but we are not to carry someone’s feelings as our own. God is the only One who can fully carry us.
- See also: Galatians 6:2-5, Psalm 55:22

You don’t listen

- Listening is the most important part of having a conversation. When someone is speaking, truly listen rather than formulating your response or solution. Acknowledge that you have heard what they are saying to you.
- See also: Proverbs 18:2, 18:13, 17:27

You join in

- Avoid the impulse to immediately side with the first case presented to you and/or to participate in gossip. Be careful to not let your emotions fuel the conversation; rather, seek to understand and encourage the person to address their conflict directly.
- See also: Proverbs 18:17, 14:29

CARING FOR SOMEONE

When you demonstrate appropriate care and concern for someone in need, you are free from the responsibility of a person making the right/wrong choice. You become their helper and remind them of who they are in Christ. Here are a few examples:

You show empathy

- Pray for God to give you compassion and the ability to see from someone else’s perspective. Acknowledge their hurt.
- See also: Galatians 6:2, 2 Corinthians 1:4, Ephesians 4:2

You encourage them

- Encourage others to take the next step toward obedience or changes that may be necessary in their life. Help them walk in the truth.
- See also: Exodus 18:17-24

You share with them

- God has given each of us a story we can use for His glory and to help and encourage others. Help others know they are not alone and give them hope. Avoid making the conversation all about you and focus on using your story to love the other person.
- See also: 2 Corinthians 1:4

You lovingly confront them

- Admonishing others can be hard, but don’t shy away from speaking the truth in love. We all have blind spots and need others to help us with them.
- See also: Proverbs 27:5-6, 27:17, Colossians 3:16, Philippians 2:3-4

You level with them

- Be honest and direct when confronting others. Grace and truth go hand-in-hand, however, be careful not to sugar coat the issue or speak too harshly.
- See also: Proverbs 27:5-6, Proverbs 16:13, Ephesians 5:6

You listen to them

- As said earlier, listening is the most important part of a conversation. Do your best to listen to understand, rather than think about what you are going to say next.
- See also: Job 2:11-13, Proverbs 18:13, 15:21, James 1:19



FINAL THOUGHTS

As leaders, we are held to a higher standard. If at any point you feel like you cannot with integrity say that you are leading in the way outlined below, please contact your Coach or Pastor.

- Leaders have been entrusted with leading others (Luke 12:48).
- Leaders are called to live a life above reproach (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; 1 Peter 3:15-16; Colossians 3:5-10).
- Leaders are asking those they guide to imitate them as they imitate Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- Leaders are to be examples in how they live their lives including confession and living in the light (James 5:16; 1 John 1:5-10).
- When in doubt about whether to inform your community Coach or Pastor, please reach out.

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.” Acts 20:28

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17