

Practical Needs

If your need is a **Practical Need** (transport, financial need, help in the home, loneliness, etc.), talk about this with your Home Group care coordinator. They may be able to arrange help from within the Home Group. However, if there is a long-term need or a need that is beyond the ability of the Home Group to provide they will put you in contact with our **Practical Care Team** who will see what their team or the church as a whole can do to help.

Other Care Provision

In addition to the Care provided by the Home Groups there are also other areas where you can access spiritual and practical care:

Welcome Team

Our Sunday Welcome Team are not merely there to provide a warm handshake! They are there to look out for those who are struggling or who want to respond to the ministry but don't know where to go. So, just ask and they will be glad to help. They may introduce you to a Pastor or the Prayer Ministry if there is a need for prayer or further longer term help.

Prayer Ministry

We believe that God speaks through His word today. We long that His Spirit would impact His word in our hearts. Expecting that He will work, the Prayer Ministry team provide a point of contact at the end of the services. They will pray with you as you seek the Lord having been challenged by His word. Just go over to the Prayer Ministry point and one of the team will be there to help you.

If you have a need that requires longer term Pastoral Care they will encourage you to approach your Home Group care coordinator to arrange further prayer or help.

Illness and Old Age

Some in the church are not able to come out to church due to illness or old age. Each person in SBC not in a Home Group has been assigned to a 'Care Group' attached to a Home Group. The Home Group will be praying for and concerned about those in their Care Group. Where regular visits are not possible from Home Group members the Practical Care Team seek to plug the gap. Their help includes providing CDs of the services, visiting the elderly and sick, advice for older people in difficulty, and passing their prayer needs onto the Home Group and the church.

Pastors

You might be surprised to see this [almost] last in the list! But there's a good reason for that! Pastors are actually given to the church to "*prepare people for works of service*" alongside other gifted leaders. That is why the practical care need of looking after Widows in Acts 6 was passed on to Deacons - the Pastor/Elders were primarily to give themselves to the teaching of the word and prayer.

This does not mean that you cannot meet with a Pastor, but that the Pastors will normally get involved in particular situations of greater need, and will seek to use their time to train and encourage those providing the front-line care.

However, you *should* see a Pastor or Elder if you have not been able to find the care you need elsewhere or if

Your Care Provision

God calls every believer within a church to "*go and make Disciples*" (Matt 28:19). This means that every person in SBC has a responsibility to care for others. For you this will primarily be to those in your Home Group. So get 'stuck in'! The world will know that we are His by our love one for another (John 13:35).

Pastoral and Practical Care *in* Street Baptist Church

Introduction

As God's children we are expected to always be growing spiritually. It's a repeated theme – we're to no longer be spiritual babies (Eph 4:14), to move on to maturity (1 Cor 13:11), to lay aside the old life (Col 3:9-10), to grow (Eph 4:15), and to bear spiritual fruit (Col 1:9-10). It's being a disciple, our walk of faith in Jesus. And it's vital for all believers.

But that walk can be difficult. Sometimes there are temptations that we keep on falling to. Other times we may struggle with coming to Him daily in prayer and the word. At other times we might struggle to understand God's purposes for us.

And, of course, we will often find ourselves facing difficulty, trouble, illness or bereavement. Jesus told us *"In this world you will have trouble"* (Jn 16:33). He warned us not to be surprised if we encounter difficulty (Jn 15:18-21). But He tells us that our trouble and difficulty is never a sign of a lack of God's love, but is in the context of His love (Jn 15:9,16:27-28), His victory (Jn 16:33) and His work in us (Heb 12:6-11).

How are we to walk in Jesus, especially in the difficult times? We often struggle manly on, gritting out teeth, and wishing there was someone to help. But, the point is that when we are in a Church, there is! In fact, God designed Church for just that.

Eph 4:2-16 tells us that we have been put together as a body of God's people in a local church to commit to one another, to use our gifts, to build one another up so that we can reach maturity. In fact, the passage makes it clear that we *cannot* reach maturity apart.

This leaflet explains how you can find that spiritual care and help within Street Baptist Church for your walk (your discipleship) with the Lord. We long to be those who 'Know, Grow, Love and Sow' for His glory, and we provide this support to enable you to do that.

Home Groups

We are designed to grow together in community. We see it from the start of the church in Acts 2 where the church met together in the Temple courts to celebrate and met in homes to break bread, grow together and pray together. So, we meet to celebrate on a Sunday and we meet in homes to grow together and pray together during the week.

Home Groups are vital in Street Baptist Church. In a larger church it is in Home Groups that you can get to know others in a deeper way. It is here that you can be more open about yourself and your walk with the Lord. It is here that you can all pray for one another. And it is here that you can nurture (disciple) one another, just as Jesus gathered 12 disciples around him in a small group to grow and be sent out.



We want every adult in SBC to be a part of a Home Group, so that we can all disciple one another and grow together in Jesus – every person a disciple-making disciple.

Home Group Care

When there is a Practical or Pastoral Care need, your home group will be your first point of help.



It may be that you need **prayer support** – the prayer times in the Home Group are an ideal place to raise these needs, and the Home Group leader may encourage ongoing prayer for you. Some groups will have organised it

so that a **prayer chain** is in place so that your prayer needs can be passed on by text or email to the group even if the prayer need arises mid-week.



Walking Together

For other spiritual needs, you may need someone to walk alongside you for a while, maybe meeting up once a week or every other week for a time to pray together, chat about the situation, and find answers together in God's word.

Examples of this kind of spiritual need are when you are **feeling spiritually dry**, or when you **want to work through an area of temptation**, or if you are young in the faith and **want to grow in your Bible knowledge**. In each Home Group there will be someone who is your contact point for the Care needs of the group. Talk to that person, and they will seek to pair you up with someone else in the group. They will help you both identify what is needed to help you and will check up on how things are going. If there is no-one suitable to walk with you in the Home Group they will talk with a member of the church **Pastoral Care Team** who will help to identify someone within SBC to walk with you.

Deeper Difficulties

There are some issues which need people with more experience or insight than is available within a Home Group. Examples might include **facing emotional difficulties, dealing with past abuse or suffering bereavement**. In such cases you should again first come to your Home Group care coordinator so that you have a long term contact and someone to look out for you within the Home Group. But, after talking with you, they may refer you to the **Pastoral Care Team** who will seek to find a person with appropriate skills and experience to walk with you for a time.