

Dealing with Difficult Issues

You are not a biblical counselor, nor should your group members treat you as such. You are, however, a support for them. At some point, you will find yourself trying to help a group member deal with circumstances life has thrown at them. When dealing with a difficult issue, we would ask group leaders to simply ask four questions. Asking these four questions will help you get the context necessary to partner with a Groups Director and come up with a plan to help your group member move forward.

QUESTION #1

“How long have you been dealing with this?”

- This question deals with duration of issue.
- Find out when the issue first occurred and how long they’ve had to deal with it.

QUESTION #2

“Who else knows?”

- This question deals with the involvement of others.
- Find out who they’ve talked to already and wide spread this issue is.

QUESTION #3

“Have you received any advice or counsel on how to deal with this?”

- This question deals with prior advice they’ve received.
- Determine whether or not they have received any other help and what advice they’ve already been given.

QUESTION #4

“Do you have any plans for your next step?”

- This question deals with seeing where they are in the thought process.
- Find out if they need you to help them gather other resources in order to deal with the issue at hand. Don’t take on the issue by making the calls, but do provide referrals and contact info.

CONTACT YOUR GROUPS DIRECTOR / CAMPUS PASTOR

Our experience tells us that if you leave a problem sit, it will probably grow and become more difficult to deal with. Please invite your Groups Director or Campus Pastor to get involved as early as possible. They can help you find the support necessary to put out a fire before it spreads.