



Small Group Ministry
Benevolence Care within Small Groups
*Reviewing how Small Groups and the Deacons work together
to offer hope and help to those within our church*

In the event of a financial need, we always want to love the person with every means God has given us. We put a high value on soul care, and ministering to the issues of the heart our people are dealing with (Col. 1:28). We also want to come along side our people, and care for any needs that would put their family in jeopardy of lacking basic needs including food, clothing, and shelter (Lk. 3:11).

Jesus said that our Heavenly Father would meet our every need, and it wasn't for us as children to be anxious about our basic provision (Mt. 6:25-34). Let's consider how we can best come along side one another in times of distress by identifying two lines of defense God has blessed us with.

As the Lord leads, you will have opportunity to encourage your small group to care for the material needs of the people in your group. This is an initial means of loving the people we are in fellowship with (Jas. 2:15-16).

The **small group** is the first line of defense. Certain small groups will have individuals God has blessed with financial means. These members will be able to meet a need other small group members are experiencing by extending the resources God has blessed them with (Acts 2:45). Each small group should attempt to meet any needs God sees fit to bring into that group with the resources they are able to extend.

The second line of defense comes through the **larger Body of Christ**—the local church. Once a need larger than the group can assume responsibility for is communicated, or if the need is recurring to such a degree that absorbs the funds a small group can provide, encourage the small group member to contact the church office to request the benevolence form (RachelBoone@graceky.org).

Upon making that suggestion to the small group member, send any details you have of the situation to the church office yourself (RachelBoone@graceky.org). Outline for the deacons how your group has already attempted to care for the need, and whether or not you are advising the person to seek benevolence.

If you are unsure how to best care for a person communicating financial duress, please contact the deacons through the church office. They will advise you on best practices for the situation you are encountering.

This approach is designed to minister holistically to the needs of the people in our church. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for us to care for one another, and extend the loving care of our Heavenly Father. May any need met reflect upon the reality that, for those of us who are in Christ, the faithful hand of a benevolent King has solved our greatest problem!