

Chapel Cancer Care Guidelines

He has cancer; she has cancer; you have cancer . . . if you or a loved one have battled or are battling this disease, you are uniquely qualified for this sisterhood. We urge you to bring your skirmishes with the enemy to learn - as well as to teach others - how to grow and thrive when cancer is part of your life.

In our time together we will seek to support and promote one another's faith walk by sharing our experiences, concerns, feelings, weaknesses and hope, strengths and wisdom. No one is the expert; we are all in the same boat!

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us . . . I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day . . . I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:18; 2 Timothy 1:12; Romans 8:38,39)

Our aim is to provide a safe, non judgmental atmosphere where we will find mutual comfort, compassion and understanding. We will endeavor to encourage one another to choose to trust God at all times and focus on the work of Jesus in our lives and in those around us.

Each participant is expected to:

1. KEEP CONFIDENTIALITY

The group needs to develop this trust. We maintain confidentiality at all times in all areas having to do with the group and its members. "What is said here - stays here." everything shared in the group is confidential and is not to leave the room. Who attends the group is also confidential. The group does not *discuss* group members who are not present.

2. MAKE "I STATEMENTS"

Avoid using "you" or "we" as one can only really speak for oneself.

3. STAY IN THE "HERE AND NOW"

Share what you are dealing with today or this week. Members try to be aware of their own feelings and talk about what is present now, rather than what life was like in the past. Bring past history to the present. Tell what God *has* done and IS doing in your life.

4. SHARE FEELINGS about your "experience, strength, and hope".

Feelings are neither right nor wrong. The group accepts one another unconditionally and avoids making judgments.

5. Remember - NO FIXING ! Our meetings **do not** replace medical or psychological care. We share information but we do not diagnose, prescribe, provide or promote specific medical advice or products. We allow individuals an opportunity to experience their pain without interference. Each member grows as she expresses herself and listens to what "works" for others. God is sufficient for each of us!

6. Use TIME-LIMITED SHARING principles:

a. One Speaker At A Time - groups are most beneficial when all participants have the opportunity to share and discuss individual issues or concerns. Sharing is encouraged, but *not required*. Please raise your hand before speaking and *limit* your sharing to 3-5 minutes so everyone in the group will have an opportunity to share at least once. The moderator will enforce time limits respectfully.

b. No Cross talk or discussion - Members will give supportive attention to the person who is speaking and avoid side conversations. There is to be *no discussion* of what someone else has shared.

c. Avoid Interruptions - if an interruption is necessary, return the conversation to the person who was speaking. Speak only when it is your turn.

d. Questions - ask only if clarification is needed while another is speaking. Questions will be addressed at the conclusion of sharing time. You have the right to refuse a question.

7. PRAY for one another.

We will identify our own burdens and allow others the privilege of bearing them with us as we devote a portion of our time to pray for one another.

Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.
Psalm 55:22

Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

This is the "law of Christ" - Jesus said, ". . . love one another, even as I have loved you . . ." John 13:34

Where two or more of you are gathered in My Name, I am there in the midst. Matthew 18:20

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. James 5:16