



## Attribute 9: Genuinely caring for people

### ▶ Scripture References

#### **Philippians 2:4**

...not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

#### **Ephesians 4:32**

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

#### **John 13:34-35**

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

#### **1 Peter 5:2-3**

Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in his 2nd letter to the church in Corinth that God “comforts us in all of our troubles.” He brings healing into our lives and through Christ and others as they provide comfort, encouragement and support to us. We comfort others with the same comfort we’ve received from God. We genuinely care for others as we allow God to work through us to bring his comfort, encouragement and support into their life (2 Cor. 1:3-7).

Sooner or later we all experience something that leaves us hurting in ways we could not previously imagine. Several years ago we were struggling with the pain and fear of watching our child in free-fall. A convergence of traumatic events resulted in multiple emergency hospitalizations and several different treatment approaches. We felt so hopeless and helpless

as her self-destructive behaviors were repeated again and again.

As we witnessed our child's growing emotional and physical wounds we bottomed out ourselves. In our emptiness and pain we cried out to God in desperation and he comforted us by providing several couples and individuals who genuinely cared for us in a variety of meaningful ways. They were his agents of love.

We received an abundance of comfort, encouragement and support. We marveled at the gift of silent presence when words were inadequate. Ceaseless prayer blessed us. We were overwhelmed by the sacrificial giving to pay for treatment costs and the generous hospitality of homes in which to stay (we lived in a different state). Love came to us in words and action. It still does.

While we have always seen ourselves as caregivers, being on the receiving end of genuine caring has changed our view and practice this life-giving gift. It has purified our motivation, refocused our priorities, and altered how we use our resources of time, talent and treasure.

As Ambassadors for Christ we desire to live lives full of love and compassion, offering comfort, encouragement and support to those who need a caring touch from our compassionate Lord as much as we did.

WHAT IDEA(S) DID THE HOLY SPIRIT HIGHLIGHT FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION?

Read: Philippians 2:4; Ephesians 4:32; John 13:34-35; I John 3:17; Matthew 25:34-40

WHICH VERSES DID THE HOLY SPIRIT HIGHLIGHT FOR FURTHER REFLECTION?

## Group Exploration

WHAT ARE SOME PERSONAL EXAMPLES WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF GENUINE CARING? HOW WAS YOUR LIFE IMPACTED? HOW WAS THE LIFE OF THE "GIVER" IMPACTED?

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS IN WHICH YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED GENUINELY CARING FOR PEOPLE? HOW WAS THEIR LIFE IMPACTED? HOW WAS YOUR LIFE IMPACTED?

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS KEY INGREDIENTS IN GENUINELY CARING FOR PEOPLE?

## Personal Application

WHAT WILL YOU DO TODAY THAT WILL REFLECT GENUINE CARE OF PEOPLE?

WHAT HELP OR ENCOURAGEMENT DO YOU NEED FROM THIS TEAM TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS TOWARD GENUINELY CARING FOR PEOPLE?

## Ambassador Prayer Connection

Prayer Partner's Name	
Contact Info	
For the month of...	

	Partner Prayer Requests	Your Prayer Requests
Application of Attribute		
Family		
Business		
Unconvinced		