



MLCPC 101:

***Living and Serving in a Broken World:
The Power of Relationship***

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Abstract

This session will focus on how coaches may connect with clients through building relationships. Participants will learn how to most effectively minister to clients by being attentive to all their needs. The qualities needed to be a crisis pregnancy worker will be discussed as well as how men can play a role in ministering to women in crisis pregnancy situations.

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to identify all of a woman's needs by looking at the whole person.
2. Participants will determine the difference between ministering and rescuing.
3. Participants will evaluate the qualities of a servant.

I. **It's All About Relationship**

A. Serving and working in a broken world is all about relationships. We are created out of relationship, through relationship, and for relationship. The ability of a crisis pregnancy worker to connect in an effective way with the women they are serving takes **courage** and is walking on sacred ground.

B. All of a woman's needs must be addressed in order to serve her effectively. We must look at the **whole person**:

1. Relational Issues

- What kind of relationship does she have with the father of the child?
- What kind of relationship does she have with her parents?
- What kind of relationship does she have with her church community?
- What kind of relationship does she have with her college community?

2. Physical & Medical Issues

3. Financial Status

4. Mental/Emotional/Psychological Well-being

5. Spiritual Life

C. **Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs** suggests that we all have basic human needs. Until those basic needs are attended to, the higher order needs are going to be more difficult to connect with. As the saying goes, "A hungry man has no ears." We must attend to all of a woman's needs in order to build relationship with her.

1. Physiological Needs – Breathing, Hunger, Thirst, and Rest

- *“They wandered in a desert region...they were hungry and thirsty; their soul fainted within them.” – Psalm 107:4a-5*

2. Safety Needs – Shelter, Health, and Security (physical, financial, property, family, etc.)

- *“Because of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, now I will arise says the Lord; I will set him in the safety for which he longs.” – Psalm 12:5*

3. Belonging and Love Needs – Acceptance by God and Others (friendship and family)

- *“So then let no one boast in men for all things belong to you...and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.” – 1 Corinthians 3:21-23*

4. Esteem Needs – Self-worth and Value (confidence, achievement, and respect)

- *“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 1:6*

5. Spiritual Needs – Spiritual Awareness and Fulfillment

- *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” – Psalm 42:1-2a*

6. Servanthood – A person’s desire and motivation to develop, use, and fully experience their God-given potential, talents, gifts, and capacities to serve Him and others.

- *“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” – 1 Peter 4:10*

- D. When you give a woman the comfort that you are caring about all of her needs and love her as a whole person, you will give her security, comfort, and peace to then attend to the issue of pregnancy. We must journey along with them, side-by-side, so that they do not feel alone. God knows exactly what they need at this time and in these relationships.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." – Jeremiah 1:5

II. Ministering vs. Rescuing

- A. Be careful not to rescue or enable the woman you are working with. If you are putting energy into rescuing this person while she is sitting back and allowing you to do all the work, there is not a good helping dynamic!

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
– **Galatians 6:2**

- B. Burden in the Greek is **baros**, which translated means a heavy weight so extreme that a person cannot carry it himself.

"...For each one should carry his own load." – Galatians 6:5

- C. Load in the Greek is **phortion**, which translated means a portion or load

- D. You must learn the difference between rescuing and ministering to a woman's needs. If you do not, you will burnout!

III. Qualities of a Servant

A. A Servant is Practical (Acts 4:36)

1. Is present
2. Doesn't get sucked into crises
3. Is encouraging

The passage describes how though Barnabas as just an average person, he was such an encouragement that the disciples wanted to change his name from Joseph to Barnabas, which means Son of Encouragement.

B. A Servant is a Risk Taker, willing to step into the lives of the unlovely and rejected (Acts 9:26-27).

1. Surrounds women and loves them where they are
2. Assesses each situation and determines the unique calling God has for the situation
3. Advocates for women in need

C. A Servant is All In and committed to coming alongside the broken. When Barnabas reached Antioch he encouraged them with a "resolute heart," which is *prosthesis kardia* in the Greek, meaning purposed in the will (Acts 11:19-24).

D. A Servant is Other's-Oriented (Acts 11:25-26)

While in Antioch, Barnabas sought out Paul in order to include him in what God was doing.

E. A Servant is Ready and Available (Acts 13:1-3).

As the believers were praying and fasting, the Holy Spirit set apart Barnabas and Paul for the first missionary trip. They were prepared in their hearts and in a ready state of mind.

F. A Servant is Long Suffering and makes a difference (Acts 13:5, 13; 15:38-38-39).

Barnabas was part of the first missionary trip with his cousin, John Mark, who ended up failing in some way on this trip (**Acts 15:38**). When Barnabas wanted to allow John Mark to come on the second missionary trip, Paul starkly disagreed, stating that John Mark had previously deserted them, so Paul and Barnabas split up (**Acts 15:38-39**).

Later in **2 Timothy 4:11**, Paul writes to Timothy asking him to get Mark because he has been useful in ministry. In **1 Peter 5:13**, Peter calls Mark a son in the faith. Here, two of the leading Apostles in the first century Church are calling on Mark who had formerly let them all down. So, somewhere, somehow, Mark made it! This is quite possibly because Barnabas refused to give up on him.

We must believe in the women we work with! Ask God, "What do you see in this person? How can I reflect your love back to them?"

Qualities to Look for in a Crisis Pregnancy Worker

with Joan Boydell, M.A. & Aundree Montgomery, B.A.

A. Volunteers are the very heart of this ministry. Essential qualities of a Crisis Pregnancy Volunteer include:

1. Loving the Lord and wanting to co-labor with Christ in this particular ministry.
 - Being committed to prayer
 - Trusting in the Lord
2. Being compassionate and having the ability to care for others.
 - Reaching out
 - Being involved
3. Being nonjudgmental.
4. Showing true humility.
 - Having the ability to learn new skills and practice those
5. Displaying a servant's heart.
 - Learning how to become involved in the details of the ministry, including prayer, mailings, event coordination, and clerical/administrative duties
6. Being committed to this woman-focused ministry.
 - Addressing the unique needs that women have
 - "We cannot reach or preserve the life of that baby until we have touched the life of that woman."

B. Personal commitments that we as Crisis Pregnancy Workers make include:

1. The commitment to the sanctity of human life in all circumstances.
2. The commitment to resolving personal issues and/or concerns prior to attempting to help others.
3. The commitment to maintain sexual purity.
4. The commitment to dependability.

IV. The Importance of Relationship

- A. We must see that our work is part of a bigger story. If God has called you to this bigger story, you *will* make an impact. Your role is so important. Try to put yourself in Jesus' place when you work with people.

B. Look at others like Jesus does:

The world saw that Jesus was only eating with tax collectors and sinners, but Jesus saw *people in need of the Great Physician.*

The world saw only a blind beggar named Bartimaeus shouting above the crowd and disturbing those around him, but Jesus saw *a man reaching out in faith and in need of mercy.*

The world saw only a group of children annoying the Master, but Jesus saw *their innocent trust and a kingdom that belonged to such as these.*

The world saw only a crooked tax collector named Zaccheaus becoming rich through the suffering of others, but Jesus saw *a man ready to be broken with an act of repentance.*

The world saw only the crowds pressing in on Him from all sides, but Jesus sensed *the touch of His garment by a trembling woman.*

The world saw only five loaves and two fish to feed so many, but Jesus saw *a great multitude, hungry and in need of compassion.*

The world saw only a woman caught in the very act of adultery and deserving condemnation, but Jesus saw *a daughter in need of forgiveness.*

The world saw only a robber crucified as a common thief, but Jesus saw *a lost soul worth dying for*.

C. Apply Jesus' perspective to our world today:

The world sees only that a man is dying from AIDS and whispers, "He probably deserves that," but Jesus sees *someone who is alone and afraid of dying*.

The world sees only the alcoholic lost and groping in the darkness, but Jesus sees *someone whose life can be restored*.

The world sees only the Christian leader who has stumbled badly and fallen before the eyes of so many, but Jesus sees *someone who is worthy of His grace and help in time of need*.

The world sees only the prostitute standing on the corner, but Jesus sees *the little girl who was sexually abused and desperate for a father's love*.

The world sees only the rebellious teenager wanting to end his or her life, but Jesus sees *someone who has never been accepted and starving for approval*.

The world sees only the color of someone's skin, but Jesus sees *a vessel fearfully and wonderfully made, created in the image of Almighty God*.

The world sees only the woman who is always anxious and depressed, but Jesus sees *the single mom struggling to survive and needing the support and understanding of others*.

The world sees only the throwaways in prison, the crippled, the poor, the homeless, but Jesus sees *precious souls that have yet to be invited to the banqueting table*.

- D. We are Jesus' hands, feet, eyes, ears, and voice. We get to love with the love of God and we can trust that He will fill in all the blanks.

V. Men and Crisis Pregnancy

- A. It is important for men to be able to speak into the pain of these women. Keep in mind that all too often, the pain these women are experiencing took place at the hand of a man.
- B. Encourage men to form godly relationships with these women, reassuring them and being examples of Christ's love.