

EQUIPPED TO COUNSEL?

As a Life Group leader you will have situations that have a 'counseling' feel. So, here are some helpful guidelines.

- 1). Remember that Life Group leaders are not endorsed by Gateway as trained counselors and that Life Groups are not designed to be counseling sessions.
- 2). The most important counsel provided in a Life Group setting is the encouragement of God's Word.
- 3). Some situations open the door to coming alongside those who are struggling with tough life events. We come alongside with words of encouragement and prayers.
- 4). There may be a Life Group meeting where the gravity of a person's or a couple's struggle demands significant time together as a group of people who are committed to doing life together. However, you can't devote big chunks of time to the same situation every time you meet – that's when the group becomes a therapy session.
- 5). If something has a 'counseling' feel, encourage the person or couple to talk to one of our pastors. Pastor Ben and Pastor Scott do most of our counseling. They are trained and experienced counselors who see that as a primary calling. There are, of course, other staff who are equipped to counsel.
- 6). Follow-up with your recommendation to seek counsel.