



## Care Plan for NCF Nurse Chapters

One of the purposes and desires for our NCF professional nurse groups is to see communities of nurses who follow Jesus and grow in their love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture, and God's purposes in the world. These "four loves" describe who we are as believers and as nurses in our practice. They also describe our nurse groups.

NCF's professional nurse groups are open to nurses in all areas of practice and academia as well as those who have retired from nursing. They are safe places to share and reflect on our practice as we look for ways to authentically live out our faith where we both live and work. Our professional nurse groups have both an inward and outward focus as faith-based groups providing opportunities for support, encouragement, and learning through a foundation based on Jesus Christ.

These groups provide a biblical basis for our identity in Jesus Christ. They are also a platform providing ways we can take our faith into our work environment. As you think about the place where you work, what is the "soil" of your workplace environment? What is the "soil" of your own heart? As we look at the Gospel of Luke, Jesus offers a thought-provoking parable about four soils that challenges us to look at the condition of our hearts and how we can be fruitful in the environment that surrounds us.

Read Luke 8:5-9, 11-15 (NIV):

<sup>5</sup> "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>11</sup> "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. <sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. <sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

### Assess

- How would you assess the spiritual soil in your workplace? Is it hard, rocky, weedy or fertile? What has contributed to this environment?
- What are the "weeds" at your job that choke out God's life-giving words?
- Think about the soil of your heart.

- Are there ways you can deepen your roots in the Lord, remove weeds and improve the condition of your spiritual soil?
- What is one thing you can do today to "improve your soil?"

### Plan

- How can you plant and nourish the Word of God in your own life? In your workplace?
- How can you stay connected to your source of strength in the challenges you face in your daily work?
- What needs do you see that you can address?
- What resources are available to you?
- Who is there with you who can also support you?
- What would fruitfulness look like in your workplace or in your community?

### Implement

- What does God want you to implement based on what you've assessed? (Please feel free to use the evaluation questions on the [Discipleship Cycle Worksheet](#). It is a helpful tool you can use throughout the year to modify your Care Plan).
  - **Hear the Word:**
    - What does it mean to be a follower of Christ in nursing?
    - How can you hear God's heartbeat for the people in your workplace?
    - What is God saying to you?
  - **Respond Actively:**
    - How can you actively respond to apply what you are hearing from God?
    - What can you do to reach other nursing students for Jesus?
  - **Integrate and Interpret:**
    - What did you learn through hearing God's Word and actively responding?
    - How and when will you share this with others?
- Spend time praying. Ask God to fill you with His love, Spirit, and wisdom.
- Discuss with other believers how you can follow Jesus by actively responding to the Luke 8 scripture passage.
- As you come up with ideas, put them into practice according to your gifts, abilities and availability.

### Evaluate

- Take time to evaluate and interpret what God has been saying to you and where He is working. Ask questions about how you can improve your outreach.

- Evaluate what your next steps are.
  - What motivates you?
  - What can you do that might be both fun and meaningful?
  - What might you do to open opportunities to promote discussion and curiosity about spiritual realities with those you work with?
- Recognize there will be setbacks in the work we do. These experiences provide us with valuable feedback and opportunities where we can learn and grow.
- Reflect also on the ways God is moving and working through your own life and the lives of others where you work. Celebrate the successes and moments of connection that are taking place as you continue to reflect His love and care for others.
- Seek feedback and support for questions you have from others you trust such as your NCF nurse group leadership team as well as members of NCF's national staff and team. We are here for you.