

Thinking about Other People

PERSON _____ DATE _____

STRENGTH

Scripture:

CONCERN

Scripture:

IMAGINING THE FUTURE

If he/she invested in the area of strength:

If the area of concern was reversed:

If he/she squandered the area of strength:

If the area of concern went un-checked:

Other considerations:

Are there any specific lies or false beliefs this person may believe that could underlie the area of concern?

Scriptures that speak to it?

Are there any specific next steps for this person to take that could be part of your encouragement / admonition?

SUCCINCT ENCOURAGEMENT

SUCCINCT ADMONITION

Directions:

STRENGTH: Spend a few minutes prayerfully thinking about this person: their life, their relationships, their ministry, their family . . . Identify a real strength this person possesses. It could be something you admire about them, or something you have seen God use in the lives of others. It could be a model character quality, area of gifting, effect they have in situations, etc.

CONCERN: What is the single most troubling thing you see in this person's life? What holds them back in their relationships and ministry? What in their character, attitude, or behavior is the most discrediting or limiting?

Tip: BE HONEST. Often, the most problematic areas in the lives of those around us are right in plain sight, but hard for us to see because we have been turning a blind eye.

Disclaimer: This is not the same thing as "something that chronically irritates YOU about them." There may be a step here of "taking the log out of your eye to see clearly;" in other words you may have to spend some time forgiving in order to do this stage in step with the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: Can you think of any bible verses that encourage or shed light on this strength? Can you think of any scriptures that give warnings or add to the rationale of your concern? Maybe scriptures that expose false beliefs that underlie wrong behaviors?

Tip: DON'T GET STUCK HERE – if you can't think of a passage right now – move on. Maybe one will come to mind later, or maybe you will have to employ the help of others.

IMAGINING THE FUTURE:

Take a few more minutes and imagine this person 1, 5 or 10 years down the road. Extrapolate the *strength* and *concern* you identified out over time, and try to describe what possible futures could look like for this person. *You are now engaged in forming a VISION for this person.*

Strength Invested In: Imagine this person put everything they had in to developing this strength over the next 10 years. They poured energy, willingness and time into it, and let God have his way with developing it. They put it to use often and in broad contexts...What would that look like in this person's life?

Concern Reversed: Imagine if this person saw substantial change in the area of concern: if they adopted a willing and teachable attitude, took major steps forward, and cooperated with God to an extent where God had begun to turn this area around. Imagine if the area of concern became an area of strength! Describe what that would be like.

Strength Squandered: On the other hand, imagine that this person did *nothing* with this strength, that they used it very little, or only for selfish purposes. *You are now engaged in forming a NEGATIVE VISION for this person.*

Concern Unchecked: Imagine the problem area were to run rampant over the next 10 years. Imagine the person repeatedly doubled down, on this choice/attitude/belief, and that the severity and effect of the problem grew. Extrapolate the problem out exponentially over the years, and imagine this person enslaved to and consumed by it.

In this stage we should try to get emotionally excited / concerned about these visions!

ENCOURAGEMENT/ADMONITION: Write out a succinct (1 or 2 sentence) admonition, and a succinct (1 or 2 sentence) encouragement. This is just to organize/simplify your thoughts into a couple key points.

SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE! Finally, prayerfully consider whether God would have you share your findings with the person. This should be done with care and patience, and in a way that makes sense in the particular context of that relationship.