

Creating a Soul Care Culture

Pastors often ask me, “How do I implement Soul Care in my church? How do we create a Soul Care culture and help our people to work through it?”

To start to develop a culture of *Soul Care*, I would start with the leaders in concentric circles of influence. How this plays out depends on the size of your church.

Larger churches: Begin with the staff. In some cases, larger churches bought everyone on their staff a *Soul Care* book and had them read it and process it. Then they held a *Soul Care Conference* with Rob for their staff and leadership.

Medium sized churches: Many other churches, which were not that large, started by reading through the book with their staff and elders and then they came as a group to a *Soul Care Conference* that I was holding either in-person or livestream.

The churches that wanted to integrate *Soul Care* as part of their discipleship culture then began spreading it out throughout the church via concentric circles of influence.

Here is a sample plan to create a *Soul Care* culture in your church:

- (1) Begin with the circles of leaders and spread it through concentric circles of influence. Don't begin in the pulpit. Many pastors experience life change at a *Soul Care Conference* and then want to go home and start preaching it. But that won't make it stick in the culture. Vision is best cast dialogically, not in a monologue. Expose your leaders to the concept and process with them. If people have an opportunity to process, ask questions, wrestle with a new concept, then they have an opportunity to assimilate the idea. If they listen to someone preaching on the new idea, but they don't buy in, they will vote with their lives. They may still attend church, but they won't fully be on board and live it out. You have to create vision carriers; people who have adapted this as part of their lifestyle and can help others to live it out in order to create culture. You can also bring your leaders through the *Soul Care eCourse* and *Soul Care Leaders eCourse* to help them understand and live this out as a culture.
- (2) After you have brought leaders through the book, take them to a conference or host a conference for your leaders (if you are a large church). The experience is vital to integration. Too much discipleship is knowledge-based discipleship, but Jesus was an obedience-based discipleship teacher. If something is truly part of the culture, it must be lived out – and that takes time. We cannot shift culture by preaching on a topic only.
- (3) Have your leaders get training in deliverance ministry. We offer a *Deliverance Training Workshop*. Larger churches benefit from hosting a *Deliverance Training*

Workshop at their church for their leaders prior to hosting a *Soul Care Conference* for their people. Smaller churches can access a conference in-person or livestream. If one isn't currently scheduled, you can contact us. Don't just skip the deliverance step because it is unfamiliar to you; get training. Deliverance is vital to breakthrough for so many people.

- (4) Host a *Soul Care Conference* at your church after you have led your leadership circles through *Soul Care*. If you want to create this as part of your culture, then don't begin with a conference for your people until after you have developed and equipped leaders. If your church cannot host a conference due to size, location, or other reasons, then you can join a livestream conference, bring a group with you to an in-person conference, or join with some other nearby churches to host a conference together.
- (5) Develop a team of *Soul Care* practitioners who can continue to bring groups of people through *Soul Care* in your context. The *Soul Care Leaders eCourse* and the upcoming book *The Soul Care Leader* will help with this. Sign up for our newsletter to be notified when these become available.
- (6) For small groups, we have *Soul Care* video curriculum that can be used in addition to the book that can either be a streamed video or DVDs.