

VIDEO OBSERVATION INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

MEMO FROM STRENGTHENING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL FOR VIDEO OBSERVATION TAPE USERS. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE OBSERVING THE TAPES.

*Instructions: The people being counseled on these counseling observation tapes agreed to have their sessions taped with the understanding that they would be used for counselor training purposes only. They were humble and gracious enough to be willing to assist in training other to do biblical counseling. Please do not violate their trust by using these tapes for any other purpose than the one they were told they would be used for. They are not to be used for general observation, but only for use with people in training to do biblical counseling. The focus should be on learning counseling principles and practice, not on the counselee(s).

We suggest that as you view each session, you take notes and answer the following questions. If you are observing these videos in a group training situation, each person should answer the questions and then join in discussing what he or she has observed and learned.

(You may not be able to fully or in some cases even partially answer every question from the session you observe. However, you should look for these details anyway and when you can, answer the questions carefully. If you are unfamiliar with some of the terms and concepts of these questions, we suggest you read chapters 10 to 16 of Introduction to Biblical Counseling by John MacArthur and Wayne Mack)

1. What did the counselor do that either facilitated or hindered counselor/counselee involvement?

2. What did the counselor do that either facilitated or hindered inspiration (biblical hope) in the counselee?

3. What did you learn about the counselee:

Physically (sleep, activities, illnesses, handicaps, physical condition)?

Resources (intellectually, spiritually, relationally, experientially, educationally, environmentally, ecclesiastically)?

Emotionally (stable, moody, angry, anxious, depressed, easily upset, bitter, resentful, self pity, etc.?)

Actions (conduct and behavior, reactions and responses)?

Conceptually (thoughts, perceptions, attitudes, beliefs)?

History (his past, previous events that may have influenced him in the present, when his problems began, circumstances)?

Desires (what the counselee wants that may be influential; what is motivating him, what are the counselee's ruling desires)?

What other pieces of information would you like to have obtained?

4. What patterns of unbiblical thinking, feeling, desiring and acting were exposed during this session? What conclusions did the counselor draw about the nature and causes of the counselee's problems? What conclusions did you hear the counselor making during the session that flowed out of the information he was gathering from the counselee and from his knowledge of Scripture?

What did he actually say or do to explain the nature and causes of the counselee's problems to him (them)?

Were his conclusions and explanations supported by Scripture and the facts he obtained from the counselee?

Did the counselor deal with heart issues as well as actions or external behavior? What heart issues did the counselor deal with in the session and how?

5. Describe the teaching, instruction that was given in this session.

Was it biblically accurate? What scripture was used?

Why do you think the counselor gave the instruction that he did in this session? What were his reasons for teaching what he did?

What was taught about God? How was Christ presented?

What was taught about the counselee's problems and what to do about them?

Describe the methods of instruction that were used in this session (question and answer, discussion, lecture, monologue, dialogue, illustrations, exhortation, rebuke or reproof)

What other relevant scripture might have been used?

Did the counselor use the homework previously given in this session? Describe how he did this.

6. What level of commitment did you observe in the counselee? Did you observe any resistance to biblical obedience? Did you observe any conviction of sin or acceptance of personal responsibility? On what in the session do you base your conclusion? What did the counselor do or say that would have encouraged commitment to biblical obedience and emphasized its importance? What was done to encourage conviction of sin and promote repentance?

7. Describe the nature and characteristics of the implementation strategies discussed in this session, the how to plans for making changes and putting the biblical instruction into practice. In what ways and areas did the counselor help the counselee to know not only what to do, but how to do it?

8. What happened in this session that may help the counselee to develop biblical patterns of thinking and living? Was there anything that the counselor did to promote the integration of biblical principles into the life of the counselee and the counselee into the life of the church?

9. What homework was given and why? Was it appropriate? What other homework might have been given?

10. What issues do you think should be dealt with in the sessions yet to come

