



Shepherd Care®

To Care for People Where They Live and Work

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COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

Group Dynamics

Groups are important, as a group of people can accomplish exponentially more than a lone individual. Every group, family, gathering, unit, assembly, team, and organization is as unique as the individuals that form the grouping. Unfortunately, many groups have at least some common traits that can either interfere or boost productivity and communication.

Observations That **Negatively** Affect How a Group Functions

- Favorites – The teacher's pet. *The answer is being Fair.*
- Insecurity – The lack of confidence in the leader, purpose, or direction of group. *The answer is Trust.*
- Disrespect – Ignoring or rebelling against the leadership, structure, and rules. *The answer is Respect.*
- Lack of Clarity – Unclear guidance and expectations. *The answer is Declare and Make Direction Plain.*
- Persecution – Other group members hurt and torment the weak or different. *The answer is Understanding.*
- Subversive – Manipulation and conniving to get one's own way or special interests. *The answer is Submission.*
- Bad Apple – One or two rotten apples can spoil the entire barrel. *The unfortunate answer is Removal.*

The Wolf Pack. Here are some examples how a group of wolves function towards other wolves. This collective behavior is not always pretty.

- The Alpha Wolf – These wolves challenge the authority and leadership of the group.
- The Beta Wolf – These wolves cave into peer pressure and allow other members of the group to walk over them and push personal agendas.
- Attack the Prey – The wolves target what they perceive as their enemy. The reason could be for food, fun, or even a stranger. This could be an insider or outsider of the group.
- Defend the Pack – The wolves gang up on what they perceive as an offense or personal attack on the group. This could be an insider or outsider of the group.

Observations That **Positively** Effect How a Group Functions

- Follow the Leader – Respect the established authority.
- Guidelines – Follow the organization's rules, purpose, policies, and procedures.
- Family – A group that cares for each other survives.
- Combine Strengths to face a Challenge – "One for all and All for one!"

How you join and participate in a *group* is important. It is your choice to respond negatively or positively. The success of the whole organization rests with each individual's understanding and commitment for the greater good of the group. A group is only as strong as its individual members.

Introducing your
Community
Chaplain

Eric Kieselbach

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**"We are all in this
together!"**

"God sets the
solitary (*individual*)
into families
(*groups*)."
Psalm 68:6

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