Caring for the Hospitalized

1) Prepare for the Visit
   a) Plan for spiritual ministry
   b) Imagine yourself in the other person’s situation
   c) **Get in touch with your own feelings**
   d) Name tag

2) Heed Hospital Signs
   a) Visiting hours
   b) The “No Visitors” sign
   c) The light above the door
   d) The closed door
   e) The sleeping patient

3) Always Knock Before Entering a Hospital Room
   a) Listen for “come in” before entering

4) Help the Patient
   a) Immediately try to assess how the patient is feeling. If this is not at good time for a visit, excuse yourself and come or call back later
   b) If a family member steps into the hall with you, this is an indication that it is not a good time to go into the room. Talk to the family member, but do not insist on seeing the patient
   c) Keep your visit brief
   d) Listen more than you talk
   e) Speak to others
   f) Watch for visitor overload
   g) Be sensitive to the patient’s comfort
   h) Let medical care take priority
   i) If a patient is eating, make the visit brief and let them enjoy the meal while it is hot
   j) Don’t sit down in the room unless you are invited to sit by the patient or family member. This is sometimes a clue to keep your visit brief
   k) Don’t ever sit on a patients bed
   l) Always obtain permission from the nurse before entering a patients room in intensive care
   m) If you touch a patient, by shaking hands or in praying with, stop by the rest room when you leave and wash your hands
   n) Be careful around IV tubes and other equipment
   o) Always follow the rules posted on the patients door
   p) When a doctor enters the room, dismiss yourself and give the patient time with the doctor
   q) Try to find out what is wrong with the patient before the visit. Don’t expect the patient to provide details of their situation
   r) Don’t use the rest room in a patients room
   s) Always Remember, That little “Hospital Gown” do not cover everything, please be respectful and excuse yourself if they need to get out of bed

5) Ask Appropriate Questions
   a) Is this a good time for a visit?
   b) Would you like to talk now?
   c) Have you ever been in the hospital before?
   d) What concerns you most right now?
   e) What can our church family do to assist you?
   f) What can I personally do to assist you?
   g) Do you have any special prayer requests to share with the church family?
   h) May I have permission to pray with you?

6) Provide Spiritual Ministry
   a) Share yourself
   b) Focus on God’s presence
   c) Read appropriate scriptures
   d) Pray
   e) Keep your Bible Study group informed
   f) Follow up

7) Help the Patient’s Family

8) Communicate with the Church and Church Staff