

Reaching Out to an Absent Brother

Send a natural greeting, listen, and help with a visit only if he wants one.

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First step: Send a personal hello. Do not begin by asking why he has been absent.

Choose the help you need

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Free starter. You may print and share this complete starter with credit.

Start with a friendly hello

You have not seen a Brother for a while. You do not know whether he is busy, disappointed, unwell, or simply spending his time elsewhere. Begin with the relationship.

Hi Jim, it is Rob from the lodge. You crossed my mind today, so I wanted to say hello. How have you been?

1. Use a familiar contact

Choose a person and contact route he is likely to recognize. Respect any known request not to be contacted.

2. Send the greeting

Keep it short. Leave attendance, dues, and volunteer jobs out of the first message.

3. Listen to his answer

Follow his lead. A greeting does not require an explanation of his absence.

4. Offer a next step only if wanted

A call, a coffee, a lift, or meeting him at the door may help. Let him choose.

Finished for now: you have made a kind contact. His return to a meeting is not the measure of whether it mattered.

Three messages you can use

A personal hello

Hi Jim, it is Rob. I enjoyed our conversations after supper and wanted to see how you are doing.

An invitation after he shows interest

We have supper Thursday at 6. I would enjoy sitting with you. Would you like me to meet you at the entrance?

A reply when now is not a good time

Of course. Good to hear from you, and I hope things settle down. I am around if you would like to talk.

Replace the names and check the event details before sending. These are examples, not a script you have to read word for word.

If you are contacting him on behalf of the lodge, say so plainly. Do not imply an official role when you are writing as a friend.