

Ministry Needs That Stephen Ministers Could Meet



Who do you know in our congregation or community who is struggling with one of these life difficulties? These are all situations in which individuals could benefit from the emotional and spiritual care a Stephen Minister provides.

Grief

- Grief after the death of a loved one (shortly after the loss or later on, keeping in mind that people often struggle with grief for a long time)
- Grief over other losses in life (such as a permanent disability, loss of mobility, loss of a home, or loss of a pet)

Major medical crisis

- Diagnosis or treatment of a terminal or life-threatening illness (such as cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, heart disease, or stroke)
- Preparing to undergo or recovering from surgery
- Rehabilitation from an accident or injury (such as a sports-related or activity-related injury or an injury from a car accident)
- Dealing with ongoing health issues (such as multiple sclerosis, degenerative disease, or chronic pain)
- Hospitalization

Challenges related to trying to start or add to a family

- Pregnancy or delivery stress and complications
- Post-birth adjustment challenges
- Infertility
- Miscarriage or stillbirth
- Adoption or fostering
- Child born with disabilities

Job-related crises

- Job loss
- Long-term unemployment or under-employment
- Job stress
- Premature retirement

Divorce or broken relationship

- Divorce (before, during, or after, keeping in mind that divorce sometimes can cause pain and difficulties for a long time)
- Break-up of a relationship with a significant other
- Other broken relationships (such as between parents and children, siblings, or friends)

Chronic care situation

- Long-term illness, disability, or other ongoing need
- Being a caregiver for a family member with ongoing or chronic needs

End of life or hospice situation

- The dying person
- The person's loved ones

Challenges related to serving in the military

- Deployment of a family member
- National Guard or Reservist called to active duty
- Adjustments upon returning from deployment



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Major life transition

- New baby
- Adoption
- Parenting a grandchild
- Blended family
- Empty nest
- Vocational change
- Retirement
- Relocation
- Change in living arrangements
- Moving into assisted living

Financial difficulties

- Bankruptcy
- Major financial setback
- Underwater mortgage
- Debt
- Increased expenses on a fixed income

Difficult family situations

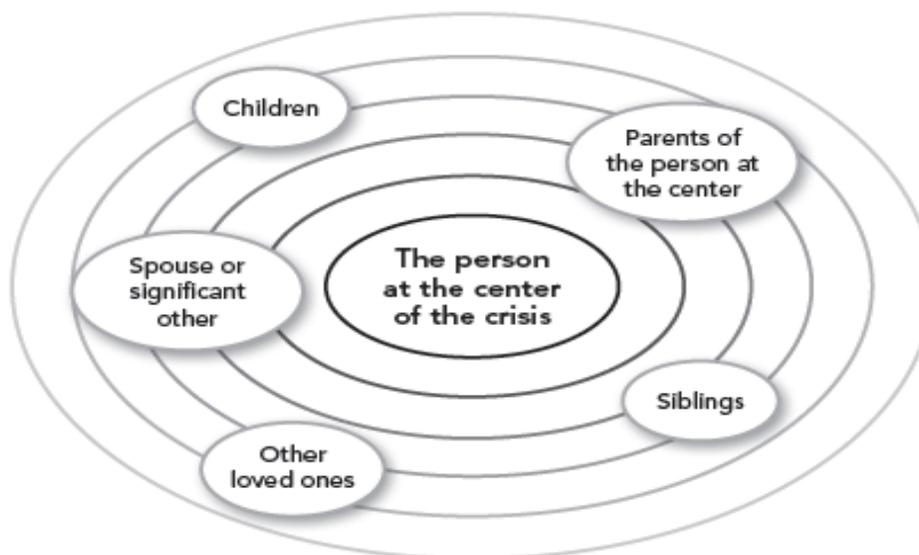
- Being a single parent
- Having a loved one with an addiction
- Having a loved one with a serious mental health issue
- Being caught in the middle of a conflict between loved ones

Other crisis or difficulty in life, such as:

- Incarceration or having a loved one incarcerated
- Spiritual crisis or struggling with faith questions
- Aftermath of a disaster or tragic event
- Victimized by a crime
- Accumulation of many losses, crises, or setbacks

Others Connected with a Person in Crisis

Keep in mind that the loved one of a person going through one of these crises, might also benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister.



For example, someone diagnosed with cancer could certainly use a Stephen Minister, but that person's spouse might also benefit. This is true even for those who may live far away from the person at the center. Their needs for care may be just as strong—but too often go unnoticed.

Think through these kinds of connections as well when identifying possible care receivers.