



Hope Beyond Our Grief

A MINISTRY OF GRIEF CARE FELLOWSHIP, INC.

Ten Ways Your Church Can Remember Grievors Throughout the Year



REMEMBER

Most grieving people never forget the day their loved one died. What often surprises them is how quickly others seem to forget. Churches have a unique opportunity to provide ongoing care through simple acts of remembrance and compassion.



Ten Ways **Your Church** Can Remember Grievers Throughout the Year

1. Keep a Grief Care Calendar

Maintain a confidential list of death anniversaries, birthdays, and other significant dates for grieving families. Use calendar reminders to prompt follow-up contacts throughout the year.

2. Send Anniversary Cards

Mail a brief note near the anniversary of a loved one's death. A simple message such as, "We remember your loved one and continue to pray for you," can be deeply meaningful.

3. Make a Phone Call

A five-minute phone call before a difficult anniversary often communicates more care than a lengthy conversation weeks later.



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4. Acknowledge Difficult Holidays

Before Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other family-centered celebrations, publicly recognize that these occasions can be painful for those who are grieving.

5. Include Grievers in Your Prayers

Regularly pray for those who have experienced recent losses and remember them by name when appropriate and with permission.

6. Offer a Service of Remembrance

Consider hosting an annual memorial service, especially during the holiday season, when grief often intensifies.

7. Encourage Small Groups to Care

Equip small-group leaders to recognize grief triggers and provide support during difficult seasons and anniversaries.



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8. Remember the First Year

The first birthday, anniversary, holiday season, and anniversary of death after a loss are often especially difficult. Create a plan for intentional follow-up during these milestones.

9. Provide Trusted Grief Resources

Offer biblically grounded books, support groups, workshops, and resources that help individuals process their grief and grow in hope.

10. Simply Say, “I Remember”

Never underestimate the power of those three words. Grievers often fear that their loved one has been forgotten. Acknowledging a name, a memory, or a significant date can be one of the greatest gifts you offer.



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Reflection for Church Leaders

A grieving person may not remember every sermon you preach, but they will likely remember the phone call you made on a difficult anniversary, the note you sent before a birthday, or the prayer you offered when their grief resurfaced months later.

Faithful grief care is often less about extraordinary programs and more about consistent remembrance. Through these simple acts, churches become tangible expressions of God's enduring love and presence.



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