

Notes to the Leader for Life Ritual 51 – Sad Occurrence

Intended Use

This ritual is intended for a general sad occurrence in the life of a member. It is not intended for those sad occurrences that are devastating, such as the death of a partner or spouse. You be the judge: is the event such that a short 15 minute ritual would help in acknowledging the loss without trivializing it? For devastating events, **contact the ministers immediately and directly.**

When you hear about a sad event in the life of a member (or spouse or partner), please refer the member to the ministers, who are available for counseling. You should also ask whether the member is open to this ritual on this day or any day. If the member is reluctant, you might gently point out that we are here to minister to each other, to offer caring and support. By sharing with the group, the member will have acknowledgement of what they are going through and know that they are not alone. Following the ritual, s/he may also have the benefit of hearing from others who have had a similar experience.

This ritual is intended to be used as an addition to the normal content for the day. The goals of the ritual are to:

- Give comfort and acknowledge the loss.
- Give the person a chance to share something about their loss.
- Let the person know they are not alone.

Two copies are printed on each 8 ½ x 11 sheet. You should cut the sheet in half and have copies ready in your notebook so they can be used when the need arises. The ritual should take 15 to 20 minutes.

Preliminaries

Be sure that everyone understands that the sharing is only for the member. Everyone will get a chance to wish them well or offer a few words of comfort late in the ritual.

Specifics

(More will be added as they are researched. We will send a message when the notes are updated)

Grief and Loss

Useful Web sites

This website sponsored by the United Church of Canada offers a comprehensive list of resources for most forms of grief, trauma, and depression.

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/grief/grief.html>

Books

Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes, William Bridges. ISBN: 0201000822

Job Loss

Ministry

Job loss can be a devastating event for individuals and their families "I think that job loss has some dynamics that are similar to the aging process, or even facing illness, in which one can't do everything one wants anymore - a confrontation with external limits to one's will. There is a lot about faith that comes up - faith in oneself, in the trustworthiness of others, in the meaning of one's life, in God." (Lindi Ramsden)

Useful Web sites

General info on job loss

<http://careerplanning.about.com/cs/jobloss/>

Career Action Center in Cupertino

<http://www.careeraction.org/CACpub/index.html>

This site has a list of books:

http://www.careerbuilder.com/book_ct.html

Article on Guidelines for Thriving During Job Loss and Job Search

<http://www.thrivenet.com/articles/jloss.html>

Job hunting web sites: These are sites to post your resume AND also contain good job hunting advice.

<http://www.monster.com/>

<http://www.hotjobs.com/>

<http://www.brassring.com/> (formerly Westech)

<http://www.flipdog.com/>

<http://careers.yahoo.com/>