

IMPORTANT TO READ BEFORE BEGINNING

Ministering to Widows and it is an area within the Christian church that has been overlooked and passed by often over the past two centuries. Our desire is to help to equip the local body to reach, care, empower and revive widows in your area. This begins with you, the local church or Christian organization leader.

We thank you for stepping out in faith to reach out to these women. Though this can seem like a scary step to take in beginning this ministry remember, we know to who God calls, He also equips.

The two videos along with the attached handouts will help you in starting a ministry to Widows. We suggest a good way to begin is by inviting the Widows of the community to a banquet or luncheon in order to bless, honor, and show them the love of Christ. After that kick-off event THEN you will begin small group meetings.

A kick-off banquet is not necessary; it is just a great way to let the community know that you are beginning a ministry to widows. You have the option to skip the first video of planning a banquet and go directly to the second video which will give you direction in beginning a small group Widows Ministry.

There are a few things we would like to touch on before you begin.

Understanding the Pain:

Losing your spouse is proven to be the number one stress event in one's life. When two marry and become one, especially over decades of time, there is much pain in the final separation from your mate. There are so many challenges for the widows such as loneliness, a full array of emotions, along with trying to figure out what living life by yourself will look like.

Family members and close friends usually cannot understand the multitude of changes the widow faces. Only someone who has walked in the shoes of being a widow or widower can relate. By connecting widows, through banquets and small groups, they can help each other through the healing process. They will learn that God still has a plan for their life and He will empower them to go forward.

Understanding the Need:

Loneliness can threaten to overwhelm a widow as the storm of emotions, questions, and fears surround her. She is facing a whole new reality, in the midst of a very large void in her life.

Widows lose over 70% of their friends.

The average age of a widow is 52.

A woman becomes a widow every minute of every day in the US.

60% of widows experience a significant illness in the first year.

What you are choosing to do is important and very close to the heart of God. James 1:27 tells us, "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God, the Father, is that you care for widows and orphans." You are choosing pure religion. Thank you.

Here are a few steps that will help to get you started.

1. Bathe this ministry with prayer
2. Set up an appointment to speak with your pastor or the person who your ministry will be under. Share with them your heart and your plans. Keep in communication with your authority because God flows through authority, not around it.
3. After watching the two videos decide if you would like to begin with a banquet/luncheon or if you want to begin by doing the small group ministry.
4. Find a team to work with you. As an old friend always told me, "Never do ministry alone". We are the body of Christ so let others of the body join in too.

So onward you go, knowing that the Lord has gone before you and is preparing the way. If you have any questions, please feel free to go to Widowslink.org and go to the contacts and send us an email. We are here to help in any way that we can.

With a grateful heart,

Marlene Craft and the team of Widows Link