

## **PeaceWorks University**

### **Toolbox Item: *Minister the Word – Victim Care***

Throughout 2022, PWU members will receive access to one video each month (twelve total) from Chris Moles in which he will introduce one of the six key elements of biblical counseling (*Gather Data, Build Involvement, Evaluate Problems Biblically, Minister the Word, Instill Hope, and Implement Homework*) and apply that key element to the specific practice of either victim care or perpetrator confrontation.

After completing the *Key Elements of Biblical Counseling Success Path*, PWU members will be able to articulate each of the six key elements of biblical counseling and apply those elements to the particular needs of counselees, both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

PWU members will also receive access to one new Toolbox item each month corresponding to the key element of biblical counseling being taught and applied in that month's Success Path video (see above).

Our hope is that these Toolbox items will give you practical tools to use as you incorporate these key elements into your own counseling ministry.

## Principles of Ministering the Word in Victim Care

In the context of a biblical counseling relationship, this instruction component plays a significant role. Biblical counselors must spend sufficient time teaching the word of God to their counsees in order to help their counsees process their struggles, sin, and circumstances through the lens of these scriptural principles in order to facilitate the obedience, faith, and change necessary.

Now, while this instruction component is a particular strength of biblical counselors, when considering the needs of a domestic abuse victim, it's important that biblical counselors not prematurely default to teaching and instruction simply because it is an aspect of counseling with which they are most comfortable. In order to faithfully minister the word, biblical counselors must faithfully exegete both the word of God and the counselee in their care. They must truthfully and accurately draw out the scriptures and then truthfully and accurately apply those scriptures to each unique need represented in the case at hand. Before biblical counselors can teach well, they must make certain they have learned and are continuing to learn their counselee well. Counselors who are diligent and humble learners will be better able to avoid the common pitfall of teaching whatever they are most comfortable or familiar with rather than what the counselee most needs.

Remember:

- Biblical counselors must be ever-growing students of the God's word and God's ways if they are to offer their counsees real hope of gospel transformation.
- Biblical counselors must skillfully determine and creatively teach both the implications of a particular passage (and its greater scriptural context) as well as the applications of that passage to the life of the counselee.
- Biblical counselors don't have to be the sole "teacher" in the counseling relationship. They can supplement their scripture teaching by using trusted gospel-centered resources such as sermons, books/workbooks, podcasts, etc.
- Biblical counselors are called to faithfully teach the truth of God's word, but the counselee is responsible for what they do with the truth they have been taught.

Going Further:

1. As you consider your own preparedness to read, understand, teach, and apply the Scriptures in the counseling room, where might you need to grow or seek out additional training? What educational resources are currently available to you?

2. What reliable secondary resources (sermon series, books/workbooks, blog posts, etc.) already exist that can you integrate into your counseling?
3. What personal stories or biblical narratives can you use to teach biblical truths to your counselee?
4. What “green flags” might indicate that a victim has ears to hear? In other words, what signs might indicate that your counselee is in a place where she is ready to receive, process, and respond to biblical instruction?
5. What “yellow flags” might indicate that a victim does not yet have ears to hear? In other words, what signs might alert you to slow down and be sensitive to any obstacles hindering your counselee from being ready to receive, process, and respond to biblical instruction?