

PeaceWorks University

Toolbox Item: *Instill Hope – Perpetrator Confrontation & 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 Instilling Hope in Perpetrator Confrontation & Victim Care

To instill biblical hope is *to convey an assurance that God is working good in the life of the counselee for his glory and their growth in Christ* (see Romans 8:28-29, Philippians 1:6).

Perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse alike need this sure hope. Counselors should be aware that a common temptation for both perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse is to put their hope in a desired outcome or wanted blessing rather than in the person and character of God, the blessing giver, himself. While a counselor can in no way assure a counselee that they will receive a specific blessing or experience a particular outcome (such as a repentant husband, a restored marriage, or an understanding church) the counselor can assure the counselee that God is actively at work in the situation and that he has promised to be and do so much for their good and his glory.

Listed below are three ways biblical counselors can point their counsees toward biblical hope.

1. **Cast a vision** for how God has promised to work in and through the counselee (according to his will and ways, not necessarily their desired outcomes) and how they can anticipate God's faithfulness to these promises in the days, weeks, and months to come.
2. **Teach God's character** so that the counselee can know not only who God has shown himself to be throughout Scripture but why those characteristics or attributes matter specifically for the work God is doing in their own heart and life circumstances.
3. **Illustrate, using story**, the dependability of hope in God. These stories can be taken from narrative passages of Scripture, the counselor's personal testimony, sermons, Christian literature, or Christian biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. By using story, counselors can paint a fuller picture of the vision that has been cast and the character traits of God that have been taught. By using story, counselors can help the counselee make personal and relatable these truths which at first may seem abstract or disconnected from the trials of life.