

PeaceWorks University 2023

Toolbox Item: Shepherding Team Roundtable – Counselors for Victims

In January, March, May, July, September, and November of 2023, PWU members will receive access to bi-monthly practical, ready-to-use Toolbox items (in addition to the vast archive of past Toolbox items). These Toolbox items will correspond to each of the six Shepherding Team Roundtable videos (also new in 2023). Each video and corresponding Toolbox item will highlight one of six potential shepherding team components. These components will include (in no particular order):

- Pastors
- Advocates
- Counselors for Victims
- Counselors for Perpetrators
- [Men of Peace](#) Facilitators
- Trauma Healing/Post-Traumatic Growth

Why Shepherding Teams?

We believe the greatest potential for an abusive man's accountability and change lies in his choice to take responsibility for his repentance process and to proactively invite a variety of people (counselors, advocates, pastors, church leaders, law enforcement, etc.) to, together, act as a shepherding team. The more expansive and diverse the roles of shepherding team members, the more holistic and effective the intervention process will be (both in terms of victim care and perpetrator accountability). Individual shepherding team responsibilities will vary depending on the roles and expertise represented.

Follow the links below to learn more about why we recommend a team-based approach to domestic abuse intervention.

- [Men of Peace Shepherding Team Roundtable Video](#)
Here you'll be able to watch an informative roundtable discussion with an experienced group of individuals who have all participated in past shepherding teams for Men of Peace participants.
- [The PeaceWorks Podcast Episode – Team Based Responses](#)
In this episode of The PeaceWorks Podcast, Chris Moles shares the value of a team-based approach to domestic abuse intervention ministry.
- [The PeaceWorks Podcast Episode – Building a Team and the Called to Peace Conference](#)
In this episode of The PeaceWorks Podcast, Chris Moles shares more about the process of building a shepherding team for a team-based approach to domestic abuse intervention ministry.

PeaceWorks University Shepherding Team Support

In February, April, June, August, October, and December of 2023, PWU members will have the opportunity to participate in bi-monthly Zoom calls with Chris Moles for Shepherding Team members engaged in current domestic abuse intervention cases. These open consults will take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 12pm EST and will not be recorded or be available for later viewing.

Toolbox Item:

Shepherding Team Roundtable – Counselors for Victims

In what ministry contexts might a counselor for victims serve?

- Licensed/Professional Counseling Practices
- Biblical Counseling Centers and Church Based Biblical Counseling Ministries

What are the roles and responsibilities of a counselor for victims in the intervention process?

- Counseling victims of abuse includes carefully and patiently listening as the victim shares the details of the abuse she has endured (past and present) as well as the ways in which she has been affected by this abuse. Victims need a safe place to speak the truth about their experiences and a safe person to hear and hold her story with care and without judgment. Women will often share the confusing nature of their partner's abuse so part of counseling is unraveling these incidents with her so that she might have clarity about what has happened. Counselors are often the first person to hear these intimate details and may be first to identify the abuse as destructive, unrighteous, and wicked. As she shares, the counselor can begin to help the victim identify, understand, and organize any patterns of abuse. The counselor should also help the victim articulate, process, and respond to how this abuse has impacted her, how God views the abuse and who He is for her, and how God might be calling and equipping her to respond.
- Throughout the counseling relationship, it is crucial that the counselor continues to assess for safety and listen for ways that the victim has attempted to keep herself safe and resist the abuse¹. The counselor should have proactive and ongoing conversations about any safety concerns the victim may have and strategize with her about how she wants to respond to various threats, concerns, or challenges with biblical wisdom.
- Counselors may also discuss what support resources the victim has access to and who she might enlist for additional help and support. When needed, the counselor may function in an advocacy role by helping the victim communicate her needs and desires to other helpers involved in her case, such as her pastor or church leaders.

What are common challenges a counselor for victims might face while serving on a shepherding team?

- Often there are not enough people in the victim's Christian community with domestic abuse education and/or experience to provide adequate care. There is quite a bit of confusion and fear surrounding the issue of abuse. It can be difficult for some pastors to respect and hear a woman's concerns and to take her perspective seriously – especially if their interactions with the perpetrator have been limited and generally positive (it's easy for them to hold those brief interactions up against a counselor's weeks or months of work with the victim and see them as equal and opposite perspectives). Pastors and churches as well as Christian counselors need training in recognizing and addressing domestic abuse so they can be effective in a coordinated community response.
- Many times, the husband and/or church leaders pressure the victim to engage in marriage counseling rather than encouraging her to seek counseling for her own safety and sanity.
- Rather than supporting and empowering a victim, other team members may be tempted to manage or control a victim, directing her in what to do and how to respond (especially in issues related to separation, reunification, and divorce) rather than helping her to weigh her options biblically and make wise decisions on her own.

¹ For more information on the topic of resistance, please see the following resources.

- [Episode #95 of The PeaceWorks Podcast – Thinking About Resistance](#)
- [PeaceWorks Blog – Resisting Abuse and Matthew Chapter 5 – Chris Moles](#)
- [Leslie Vernick Blog – Is Resisting Abuse Sinful? \(Part One\)](#)
- [Leslie Vernick Blog – Is Resisting Abuse Sinful? \(Part Two\)](#)

PeaceWorks University Victim Counseling Specific Resources

- PWU Success Path – *Key Elements of Biblical Counseling and Domestic Abuse (Victim Care)*
- PWU Master Class – *Victim Care* with Joy Forrest
- PWU Master Class – *Danger and Lethality* with Law Enforcement
- PWU Master Class – *Sexual Abuse in Marriage* with Darby Strickland
- PWU Master Class – *Your Identity in Christ* with Elyse Fitzpatrick
- PWU Master Class – *Crying Out* with Sydney Millage
- PWU Master Class – *Effects of Emotional Abuse* with Anne Dryburgh
- PWU Master Class – *Safety Planning* with Megan Cox
- PWU Master Class – *Helper vs Rescuer* with Evelyn Colon
- PWU Master Class – *Keys to Healing* with Joy Forrest
- PWU Master Class – *Reasons Women Fail to Cry Out* with Sydney Millage
- PWU Toolbox Item – *Why Do Some Abuse Victims Not Cry Out for Help? Info Graphic*
- PWU Master Class – *Stages of Change for Victims/Survivors* with Summer Vinson-Berger
- PWU Toolbox Item – *Stages of Change for Victims/Survivors Handout*
- PWU Master Class – *The Lived Experience of Abuse* with Brad Hambrick
- PWU Toolbox Item – *The Lived Experience of Abuse Notes*
- PWU Master Class – *Untwisting Scriptures* with Chris Moles, Darby Strickland, and Joy Forrest
- PWU Master Class – *Forgiveness, Don't Rush It* with Sydney Millage
- PWU Toolbox Item – *Trust Tree Worksheet*
- PWU Master Class – *Building Trust with Victims of Domestic Abuse* with Darby Strickland
- PWU Toolbox Item – *Building Trust with Victims of Domestic Abuse Notes*
- PWU Master Class – *Nunya* with Sydney Millage
- PWU Toolbox Item – *Incident Journal*
- PWU Master Class – *Caring for Victims of Domestic Abuse* with Kathy Haecker
- PWU Toolbox Item – *How to Truly Help Victims of Domestic Abuse Info Graphic*
- PWU Master Class – *Sex, Mutuality, and Marriage* with David Dunham
- PWU Toolbox Item – *Sexual Support, Safety, & Stability Assessments*

General Shepherding Team Educational & Support Resources

We recommend shepherding team members take advantage of the following educational and ministry support resources as they engage in domestic abuse intervention ministry.

Books

- [*The Heart of Domestic Abuse: Gospel Solutions for Men Who Use Control and Violence in the Home* by Chris Moles](#)
- [*When Home Hurts: A Guide for Responding Wisely to Domestic Abuse in Your Church* by Jeremy Pierre and Greg Wilson](#)
- [*Self-Centered Spouse: Help for Chronically Broken Marriages* by Brad Hambrick](#)
- [*Domestic Abuse: Recognize, Respond, Rescue* by Darby Strickland](#)
- [*Is It Abuse?: A Biblical Guide to Identifying Abuse and Helping Victims* by Darby Strickland](#)
- [*Called to Peace: A Survivor's Guide to Finding Peace and Healing After Domestic Abuse* by Joy Forrest](#)
- [*Is It My Fault?: Hope and Healing for Those Suffering Domestic Violence* by Lindsey and Justin Holcomb](#)
- [*Why Does He Do That?: Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men* by Lundy Bancroft](#)
- [*Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life* by Evan Stark](#)
- [*The Emotionally Destructive Marriage: How to Find Your Voice and Reclaim Your Hope* by Leslie Vernick](#)

Free E-Books

- [*God's Protection of Women: When Abuse is Worse than Divorce* by Herbert Vander Lugt](#)

Blogs

- [*Is Anxiety Rooted in Trauma?* by Beth Broom](#)
- [*What Makes an Event Traumatizing?* by Beth Broom](#)
- [*How Trauma Affects Us* by Beth Broom](#)
- [*The First Step in Healing from Past Trauma* by Beth Broom](#)
- [*Deep Breathing for Anxiety and Trauma* by Beth Broom](#)
- [*Safety is Essential for Healing* by Beth Broom](#)
- [*What I've Learned from Working with Survivors of Abuse and Trauma* by Melissa Affolter](#)
- [*Domestic Abuse Victims: Sinners or Sufferers?* by Chelsey Gordon](#)
- [*Not as They Seem: Anticipating Deception in Domestic Abuse Cases* by Chelsey Gordon](#)
- [*Why the Gospel is Especially Good News for Domestic Abuse Victims* by Chelsey Gordon](#)

- [*Personal Soul Care for Those in Domestic Abuse Counseling* by Chelsey Gordon](#)
- [*Three Common Mistakes People Helpers Make When Working with Destructive Marriages* by Leslie Vernick](#)
- [*Guide for Men Who Are Serious About Changing \(Part One\)* by Lundy Bancroft](#)
- [*Guide for Men Who Are Serious About Changing \(Part Two\)* by Lundy Bancroft](#)

Training Resources

- [*The Heart of Domestic Abuse: Step by Step Abuser Intervention for Biblical Counselors*](#) - This twelve-unit online course from Chris Moles (based off his book, *The Heart of Domestic Abuse: Gospel Solutions for Men Who Use Control and Violence in the Home* - see above), was created to prepare church leaders and biblical counselors to recognize domestic abuse and respond to abusive men with the help and hope of the gospel. By completing this course, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skills required to call abusive men to repentance and provide necessary accountability. Please note, this course is already included with each [PeaceWorks University](#) membership (under Core Curriculum) at no additional cost.
- [The House of Peace Virtual Advocacy Training Center](#)
- [Christian Trauma Healing Network](#) - The Christian Trauma Healing Network (CTHN) serves mental health professionals, pastors, and lay ministry leaders to advance Christ-centered trauma healing in the church and society.
- [IBCD Domestic Abuse Observation Videos featuring Chris Moles and Jeremy Pierre](#)
- [Church Cares](#)

Podcasts

- [The PeaceWorks Podcast](#)
- [Relationship Truth: Unfiltered with Leslie Vernick](#)