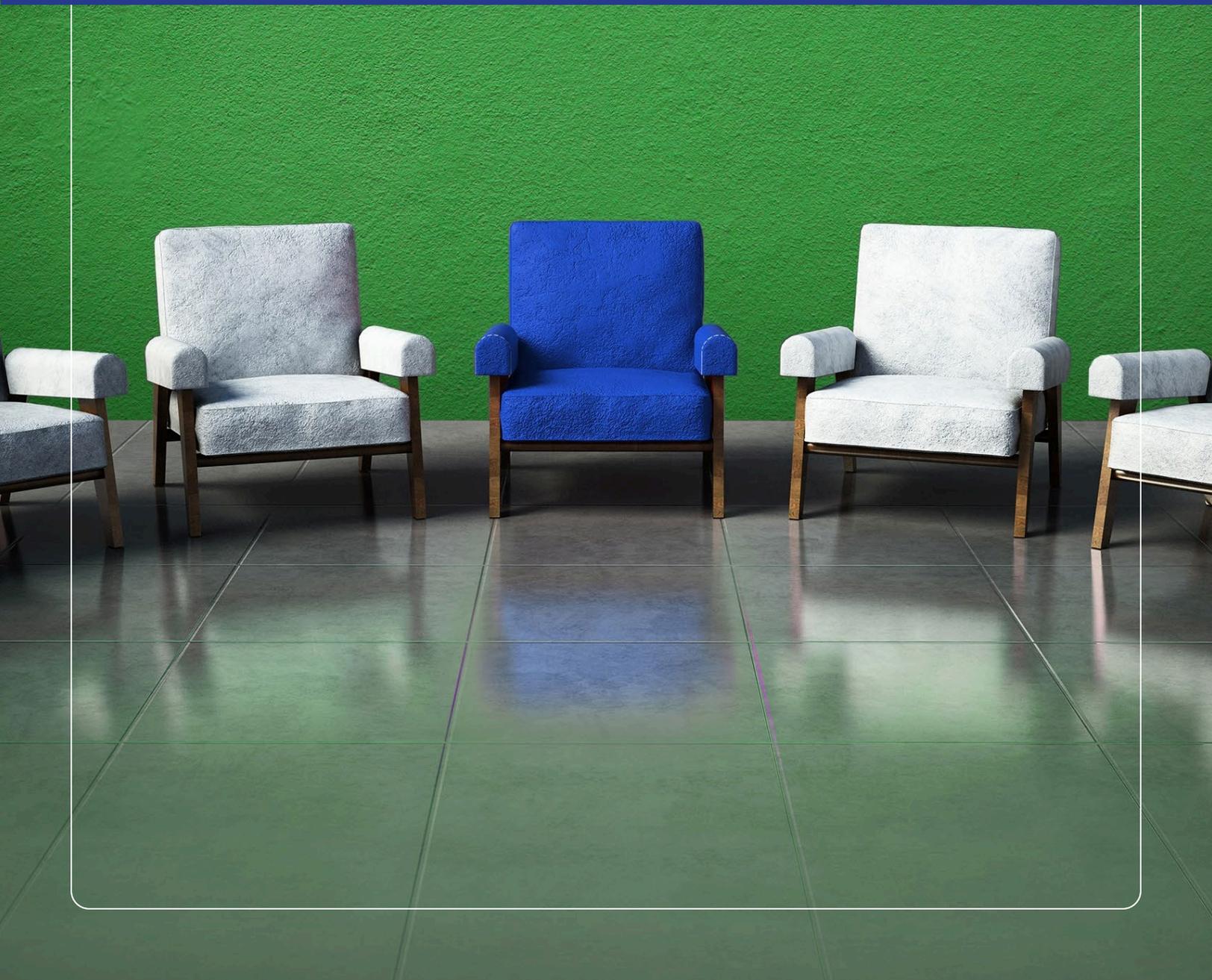


DIVORCE *Care*[®]

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

VOLUNTEERING FOR A DIVORCECARE GROUP



Is this right for my church?

How much does it cost?

Do I need materials?

Can I do this?

Can I do this?

What do I need to get started?

Do I have what it takes to lead?

What are my next steps?

Am I ready to jump in?

But what about ...

You probably have a few concerns and more than a few questions. Is your brain buzzing with them? That's great! This means you're right on track. As you consider this opportunity, it's natural to have these thoughts. It's why we wanted you to have this guide—to provide answers and guidance and let you know that ...

YOU CAN DO THIS!

DivorceCare was created with lay leaders like you in mind. We provide the resources you need to launch, run, and grow your group. And we'll walk with you every step of the way. The rest of this guide is designed to answer your questions and help get you started. In the following three steps, you'll learn what DivorceCare is all about and how to bring it to the hurting in your community. At the end, you'll find answers to common questions people have about leading a group.

Ready to learn more? Just bring your heart, and we'll show you how.

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“I’m able to help others that have gone through the same situation as me ... that’s what gives me joy.”

Dee, DivorceCare leader



YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT (YES, YOU!)

Thank you for your interest in leading a divorce support group! You've just taken the next step to reaching those in need of hope and healing. This guide will help walk you through the process of getting started in volunteering through DivorceCare. We know God wants to use your divorce for good, and we're here to help you get ready to make a difference! Your involvement in DivorceCare can impact:



Individuals

You can reach the hurting during the most difficult time in their lives. DivorceCare offers support and hope to people when they need it most.



Your community

Offering DivorceCare draws people from your community to your church. So your group can be a catalyst for hope and healing in your area.



Eternity

This ministry offers more than recovering from the pain of divorce. It offers biblical hope, encouragement, and instruction that invite people to become followers of Jesus Christ.

“We’ve seen people come to Christ, shattered lives healed, and many have joined our church.”

DivorceCare leader, Lynchburg, VA

For over 25 years, thousands of DivorceCare leaders—people just like you—have been coming alongside those in divorce and helping them make it through. And these leaders keep on telling us about how deeply satisfying it is to see lives transformed. Mike, a DivorceCare leader, shares his story:



MIKE'S STORY

Leading DivorceCare helps others.

The main joy I get from leading a DivorceCare group is having an opportunity to share the love of Christ with people who are hurting.

People come in to DivorceCare raw and in pain. It's amazing to see how their lives change as they watch the videos, go through the discussions, and bond with others who understand what they're going through. They realize that there's hope and that they will make it through this awful experience called divorce.

If you're considering becoming a DivorceCare leader, it will be one of the most rewarding things you can ever do in your life. **Leading DivorceCare helps others. Here's your chance to be the hands and feet of Christ.**

WHY YOU?

“Not sure that you’re qualified to lead DivorceCare?”

If you’re reading this guide, you clearly have a heart for those hurting from divorce. This is the most essential quality you have to offer.

Think about where your compassion comes from. It probably grows from a personal experience with divorce, right? Your firsthand encounter with divorce has not disqualified you from ministry. It has equipped you for it. You are perfectly suited for this task.

With that foundation, you have everything you need to start a DivorceCare ministry at your church.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

2 Cor. 1:3-4



SUCCESSFUL LEADERS HAVE:

**A HEART TO
HELP OTHERS**

You understand what people experiencing divorce are going through. Your heart aches for those who have gone through divorce. You want to help ease their pain.

You want to serve others, and you are willing to commit a few hours each week to minister to those who are hurting from a marriage breakup.

**WILLINGNESS
TO SERVE**

If you have those two desires, we can help you lead a successful DivorceCare program.

“All that’s left for me to do is go in there with my heart and compassion.
The rest is provided for us.”

Paisha, DivorceCare leader, Anaheim, CA

3

**SIMPLE
STEPS**

STEP 1

GET INFORMATION

Your first step is to learn more about this ministry. If you're considering hosting a DivorceCare group at your church, this page gives you an overview of the program and what it entails.

WHAT IS DIVORCECARE?

DivorceCare is a 13-week, Christ-centered support group hosted at local churches by leaders just like you. Through video teaching and small-group discussions, the group helps people in divorce find healing from the pain of divorce and rebuild their lives.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO LEAD A GROUP?

A DivorceCare kit provides the basic tools:

Leader's guide

No need to write a lesson plan—just pull out a weekly agenda and follow along! The discussion questions we provide will jump-start the sharing time and keep it on track.

Wondering about getting more people to help you? The leader's guide tells you how to recruit a small team of volunteers.

Surviving the Holidays

This holiday video and Survival Guide allow you to minister to people hurting from a broken marriage during the holidays.

Video sessions

You don't need to teach or "know all the answers." The pastors and counselors on the videos do the teaching for you.

Participant guide

Your group members will find personal help between weekly meetings. You won't need to be a Bible expert, because the Scriptures in this book are perfectly suited for people hurting from divorce.

Promotional materials

We help you get the word out about your group: You'll have access to promo videos, fully designed ads and flyers, free online registration tools, and more.



WHAT DO GROUP LEADERS DO?

As a DivorceCare leader, your main responsibilities will be to:

Build a team

You shouldn't lead your support group alone! It's better to build a team of people to help you run your group.

Promote your ministry

Most people in your community won't hear your weekly church announcements, so you'll need to actively promote your group—inside and outside of your church. When you host a group, you'll have access to free promo materials (flyers, social media ads, videos, etc.) that you can use.

Host a group

Hosting a DivorceCare group involves two basic activities:



Video seminar

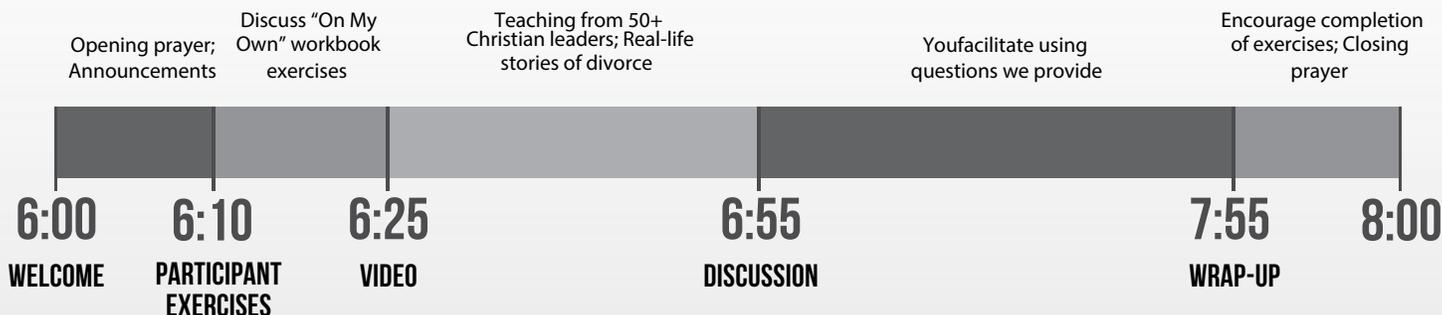
Each week you'll show a 30-minute DivorceCare video to your group. The videos (on DVD and online) feature respected Christian counselors and pastors who will "teach" your group. So you don't have to be an expert.



Small-group discussion

Discussion questions are provided in each **leader's guide**. You simply facilitate the small-group sharing time.

TYPICAL MEETING



Visit divorcecare.org for more information about DivorceCare!

"The materials in DivorceCare are biblically based and time tested."



Chuck Milian
Pastor, Raleigh, NC

STEP 2

GET SUPPORT

Have more questions or concerns? We thought so. That's why we have a team of DivorceCare coaches standing by to guide and assist. Best of all, there's no charge (ever) to speak with a DivorceCare coach!



CONTACT A COACH

Once you understand the basics of DivorceCare, the next step is to talk to a DivorceCare coach. A coach will help you launch a successful group—and help you make sure it stays strong. Many of our coaches have been through divorce themselves and now find joy in helping people through DivorceCare. They'd love to talk to you.

WHAT DOES A COACH OFFER?

VISION

Your DivorceCare coaches can help you understand how God can use you through this ministry. And they'll explain how DivorceCare can help you use what you've learned to help others in your community who are hurting from a divorce.

SUPPORT

Do you have questions about what to do next or how to get started? Want advice from someone with experience? Need encouragement through the process? DivorceCare coaches are ready to talk to you.

Perhaps you still have some doubts about making a commitment to lead. (This is normal!) Our DivorceCare coaches can be a sounding board for you through that decision-making process. They've worked with thousands of leaders and can help you figure out if you're ready and give you confidence to take the next step.

Make an appointment to talk with a coach. It's free!

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

To take advantage of our free coaching, call 800-489-7778 or email a DivorceCare coach any time. There's no commitment required! Our coaches are available to current, future, and potential leaders (even those who are just thinking about it). Coaches are available Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

MEET OUR COACHES



PATI

Pati is the Director of Ministry Coaching. Since she joined the staff in 2015, her organization skills, knowledge, and kind heart have been apparent as she guides churches and leaders in how to host our support group programs.



HEIDI

Heidi is a ministry coach passionate about helping churches start and grow support groups. She guides leaders with encouragement and practical tools, supporting them as they navigate challenges and celebrate their ministries.



KIM

Kim connects with pastors, church staff, and lay leaders to offer help and suggestions for their support group ministries. Her involvement in grief and care ministry started in 1997.



HOLLY

Holly has led ministries for many years and finds great joy in equipping volunteers and leaders. She encourages and supports them with wisdom, compassion, and practical insight to help their ministries thrive.



STEPHANIE

Stephanie has led support groups since 2006. She enjoys guiding leadership teams through the process of launching and maintaining an effective and long-lasting ministry program.



CAMILLE

Camille helps churches hosting a support group ministry, and guides leaders in building a ministry team and navigating the many resources available.



CALL A MINISTRY COACH
800-489-7778



EMAIL A MINISTRY COACH
info@divorcecare.org

REVIEW YOUR RESOURCES

Your coach isn't the only help we offer. If you decide to lead a group, we'll introduce you to our online DivorceCare **LeaderZone**.

The LeaderZone website gives you access to:

- The latest leader news
- Our online discussion forum
- The LeaderZone Library
- Sample ads
- Promotional videos
- Tips for recruiting volunteers
- And much, much more

The DivorceCare Online Forum:

With this email forum, you can connect with other DivorceCare leaders, asking questions and sharing advice and experiences.

With your coach by your side and the DivorceCare LeaderZone at your fingertips, you'll never be alone in your DivorceCare journey.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

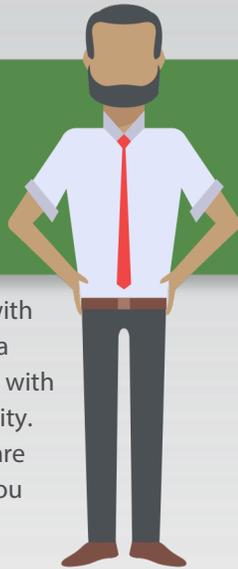
STEP 3

GET APPROVAL

Before starting a ministry at your church, you'll want to be sure you have your church's support and approval. Nervous? Don't be. Most pastors are thrilled when church members take the lead to meet specific needs in the church and community.

MEET WITH YOUR PASTOR

Your pastor may or may not be familiar with DivorceCare. So, if you want to launch a group, your next step should be to speak with your pastor about this ministry opportunity. You'll want to schedule a meeting to share what DivorceCare is all about and why you are excited to offer it in your church.



EMAILING

Start by **emailing the pastor** who oversees care ministries to set up this meeting. (Don't try to pitch a new ministry idea during a busy Sunday morning service!) Thirty minutes is plenty of time to properly present everything your pastor needs to know.

SAMPLE EMAIL

Here's an email template you can use:

Dear Pastor (Name),

I'd like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss a potential new ministry for our church—DivorceCare. It's a biblically based, lay-led support group program to help people hurting from the pain of divorce and separation.

This is a topic that is near and dear to my heart, and I am excited about the potential DivorceCare has to impact both our congregation and the community.

During our meeting, I'll outline the basics of the ministry and how I could help implement it at (Your Church Name). Is there a day next week we could meet for 30 minutes?

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and consider this opportunity.

In Christ,
(Your Name)



RESOURCES FOR THE MEETING

Need more resources? We've got 'em. Use these tools to prepare for your meeting with your pastor.

PROMO VIDEO

Share this **video** with your pastor to view before your meeting. It provides a 2-minute overview of the ministry.



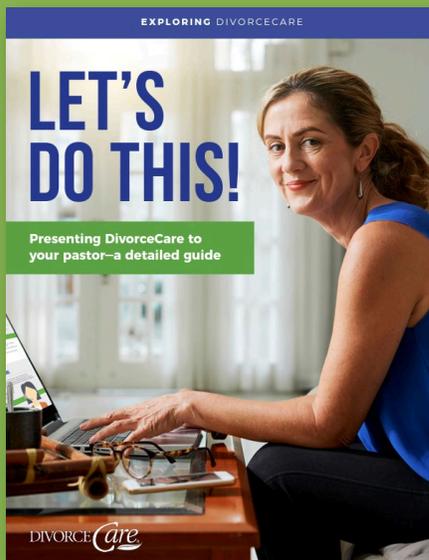
WEBSITE

Show your pastor the **DivorceCare website pages** on how to start up a group.



MEETING GUIDE

Download this **detailed agenda** to help you plan what to say during the meeting.



Feel free to use these resources to help your pastor understand DivorceCare's potential at your church. You could send links to your pastor before or after the meeting.

Remember, if you have questions about what to do during your meeting with your pastor, you can always call a coach for help.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Here are some of the most common questions people have before they start a DivorceCare group.

Q. I'm not a counselor. What if I don't have all the answers?

You aren't supposed to. As a group leader, your role is not to give counseling advice or be a teacher. The videos will help answer many questions, and, if anything comes up outside of this information, it's okay to say you don't know the answer but you'll find it. Then after the meeting, you can call a DivorceCare coach or talk to one of the leaders in your church to help you with a response.

Q. Will I have to prepare curriculum or materials?

Not at all! Everything is provided for you. Each participant receives a workbook, and all discussion questions are included in your [ministry kit](#). Each kit includes videos, a leader's guide with agendas and discussion questions, training guides, promo tools, and access to additional resources.

Q. I'm divorced. Doesn't that disqualify me from leadership in the church?

On the contrary, your experiences and heart for those going through divorce uniquely qualify you for this role. God has perfectly equipped you to comfort others and help them heal.

Q. Will there be enough interest for this ministry in my church?

If you're only thinking about how DivorceCare can help people in your church, you aren't thinking big enough. There are many people in your community who are hurting from the pain of separation and divorce. And DivorceCare is a wonderful way to reach them. Plus, you might be surprised how many people in your church have been divorced and you don't even know it. If you make the ministry available, it's likely you'll find many who are excited about involvement with DivorceCare.

Q. Does it cost anything to start a DivorceCare group?

Your church will need to purchase a [DivorceCare ministry kit](#), which has everything you need to start the ministry, including the videos, participant workbooks, and additional resources. Kits are available in three sizes (based on participant numbers) and start at \$395. Many groups charge participants a registration fee of \$20 to \$25 to cover the costs of their workbooks, refreshments, and other expenses. Many churches also maintain a scholarship fund for those unable to afford the fee.

Q. What time commitment do I need to run this ministry?

Of course, this varies from group to group, but you can expect to devote 2 hours each week to facilitating meetings for the 13-week program. Then factor in an additional hour or so for ongoing promotion for future groups and support for the current group.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COACH

Hi there! At this point either you're ready to take the next step to launch your group or you still have a few more questions. And wherever you're at, we're here to help. To determine how best to support you, I'd like you to answer this question:

ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

YES

You are excited about this ministry opportunity and would like to take the next step to bring DivorceCare to your church.

NO

You have a few questions and concerns you need to address before you'll feel ready to move forward with this ministry.

CALL A COACH

800-489-7778

I'm excited for you and would love to help you get started! You can reach out to our DivorceCare coach team right away for guidance and support as you begin this new ministry.

I understand completely. And I would be happy to walk you through your questions and concerns. Our DivorceCare coach team exists for this purpose! Let talk about how we can help.



Wherever you are on your DivorceCare journey, our coaches have walked there before and would love to come alongside you. A quick connection with a DivorceCare coach will provide the support you need to determine your next best step. I don't want you to miss this free, no-obligation support that has helped thousands of others just like you. We hope to hear from you soon!

Pati Baker, *DivorceCare Ministry Coach Director*



CALL A MINISTRY COACH
800-489-7778



EMAIL A MINISTRY COACH
info@divorcecare.org