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GriefShare curriculum and/or the GriefShare Surviving the Holidays curriculum will be 
used in the manner and technique described in the respective GriefShare leader’s guides.
Welcome

For people grieving the loss of a loved one, the holiday season can feel hurtful and sad. They are faced with social gatherings, holiday cheer, and special traditions that had always involved their loved one. Whether the loss was recent or years ago, this season is a painful reminder that their loved one is no longer here to celebrate.

While the holidays can intensify grief, GriefShare’s Surviving the Holidays will bring reassurance, practical advice, and a way forward through the season.

My prayer is that God will use this event to bring His comfort, hope, and direction to grieving people this holiday season.

I also pray that Surviving the Holidays will be an outreach in your community, with many people from your event returning to find support in your GriefShare group.

Thank you for your desire to help hurting people through this difficult season.

God bless you,

Sam Hodges
GriefShare president
griefshare.org
A GriefShare coach is glad to answer your questions about hosting Surviving the Holidays. Coach support is always free!

800-395-5755 (US/Canada)
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info@griefshare.org
griefshare.org/leaderzone/appointment

Monday–Friday
9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET
Be ready to host a Surviving the Holidays event with 3 simple steps.

1. **Review the books**
   Read this leader’s guide, and review the Survival Guide for attendees

2. **Watch the video**
   Being familiar with the video prepares you for discussion times

3. **Schedule your event/s (in person or online)**
   People dreading the holidays will know that help is coming soon!

**Resources for hosting your event**
In the LeaderZone, you can access the 35-minute Surviving the Holidays video. You’ll also find an event agenda, discussion questions, sign-in sheets, social media ads, and promo videos.

griefshare.org/leaderzone/holidays
Event timeline

This schedule is recommended, but you can plan Surviving the Holidays in a shorter time frame too!

1 Plan & build
   • Share event with your pastor
   • Choose date, time, location
   • Build volunteer team

2 Order, create & promote
   • Order supplies, brochures, gifts
   • Create event for griefshare.org search tool (p. 7)
   • Invite current and past group members

3 Promote, host & support
   • Promote your event in church & community
   • Host 1–2 weeks before Thanksgiving
   • Send supportive follow-up notes

4 Host, support & invite
   • Host an event 1st or 2nd week of December
   • Send encouraging notes close to Christmas
   • Invite people to your next group cycle
How Surviving the Holidays Works

As an outreach tool
For people in your community who have lost a loved one, this season is a bleak reminder that their loved one is no longer here. Many are wondering how they will make it through, and they may be more open to attending a one-time event to find answers. Surviving the Holidays equips your church to:

- Help grieving people navigate the challenges this season
- Introduce them to the help found in a GriefShare group

Your 2-hour event
A Surviving the Holidays event is run just like a GriefShare group, with 3 main parts:

Video
The 35-minute video is filled with practical insights from grief experts and from people who know what it’s like to face the holidays after loss.

Discussion
During the small-group sharing time, people can discuss what they learned on the video and how it applies to their lives. (See the discussion questions, p. 17.)

Personal reflection
Each attendee will receive a Survival Guide with helpful exercises, tips on handling social events, comforting Scripture, and guidance for holiday challenges.
Get tips. Ask questions.

Connect with other people leading GriefShare and Surviving the Holidays groups. You can ask questions, share tips, and offer prayer support.

Leaders’ Forum
Online discussion group for leaders

“GriefShare Leaders” Facebook page
To join, use the code: ConnectMe

Learn more at
GRIEFSHARE.ORG/CONNECT

Need supplies?

Find what you need at the LeaderZone Store:

- Survival Guides
- Leader’s guide
- Reflections gift journals
- GriefShare brochures & flyers

GRIEFSHARE.ORG/LEADERZONE/STORE
Prepare, Present, Provide

Follow this basic strategy to make the most impact with your Surviving the Holidays event:

Prepare
to host Surviving the Holidays

Present
your 2-hour event

Provide
a GriefShare group for continued support
People are searching online for help.

“Create a Holiday Event” on the LeaderZone, so people can find your event and receive needed support this season.

GRIEFSHARE.ORG/LEADERZONE/HOLIDAYS

Pro Tip: Do this 1 month in advance, so hurting folks know that help is coming soon!