

"I'm ready to tell my church leaders about DivorceCare. But where do I start?"

You're excited about the possibility of your church offering this ministry, but you haven't yet presented it to your church leaders. You know how busy they are, and you want to be sure to communicate the main points.

Here's how to present DivorceCare to your church staff with clarity, conciseness, and passion.

SCHEDULE A 30-MINUTE APPOINTMENT

This is key. Otherwise, you'll ambush your pastor with information he may not be ready to process. Plus, during an impromptu meeting, you'll likely feel rushed and forget to make key points.

DURING THE MEETING

Here's what you'll want to communicate during your meeting:



EXPLAIN WHAT DIVORCECARE IS

If your church leadership isn't clear about what DivorceCare is, they probably won't give you a green light. So communicate that:

- DivorceCare is a Christ-centered, video-based ministry. It helps divorced and separated people.
- DivorceCare is designed to reach and help people inside, and outside, the host church.
- DivorceCare does not encourage divorce. It helps those who've been hurt by it, encouraging reconciliation whenever possible.

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EXPLAIN WHAT DIVORCECARE CONSISTENTLY DOES

- DivorceCare **helps churches grow**. This is due to the fact that DivorceCare draws people from outside of the host church. These "guests" often join the host church.
- DivorceCare introduces people to Christ. Many of the people who attend from the community likely will not have an active spiritual life and will not be followers of Christ.
- DivorceCare **empowers your church** to minister to many people at the same time.
- DivorceCare leads to healing, and at times, the restoration of marriages.



EXPLAIN WHY YOU WANT TO BEGIN THIS MINISTRY AT YOUR CHURCH

You have a passion to help people in divorce and separation. Maybe you've been there yourself—knowing the loneliness, loss of hope, bitterness and anger, the feelings of rejection and shame, the fears for your future and the daily exhaustion.

Share **why you have a passion** for this ministry, and what could happen if your church supports it. Express your vision and commitment. Church leaders need to know that you will be around to follow through and build the ministry.

SHARE YOUR PLAN

- Explain that you'd like to **form a team** to lead DivorceCare at your church.
- Let your pastor know what **your role** will be on the team, the **number of other people** you'll need and what **their roles** will be (a person for publicity, someone to be a greeter, a person to possibly co-facilitate the group with you, etc.).
- Give your pastor a **proposed budget**. Remember that DivorceCare participants typically pay for the workbooks, so the church won't have to pay for them.

EXPLAIN WHY YOU THINK THE PROGRAM WILL BE A SUCCESS

- The program comes with a **training video** and detailed **Leader's Guide**.
- DivorceCare offers free phone support and a leadership website to help you troubleshoot problems. You won't have to bombard the church leadership with questions about how to make it work.
- DivorceCare comes with publicity materials (posters, promotional videos, press releases and more).

TELL YOUR PASTOR WHAT YOU NEED

- **Support:** You'll need the church to provide an adequate meeting space, and the time and resources to promote your group inside and outside the church.
- A kit: Ask your church to purchase the kit and your initial order of workbooks.
- Ask your pastor when he'll let you know the final decision.

WHAT TO LEAVE WITH YOUR PASTOR

Leave the "Introducing DivorceCare" sheet with your pastor. It contains a summary of what you'll have shared with him, plus instructions on where he can go to find more information on DivorceCare.

NEED MORE HELP?

Contact us. Our DivorceCare coaches will answer any questions you have and help you begin this ministry at your church. Just give us a call at 800-489-7778 (919-562-2112 international).