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**“Stephen Ministers help those they care for experience God during those times in life when they might be wondering, *Is God even there?*”**

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**How do you think Stephen Ministers help fill that spiritual gap?**

God’s love is always there, but sometimes it can be really hard to feel it, especially when you’re going through a crisis. That’s probably when people doubt God’s presence the most, when their faith is the most vulnerable. But a Stephen Minister is Jesus’ hands and feet, just being there and caring for a hurting person. Stephen Ministers express God’s love in a tangible way that care receivers can feel. Stephen Ministers help those they care for experience God during those times in life when they might be wondering, *Is God even there?*

**What would you say to someone who’s considering receiving care from a Stephen Minister?**

Asking for a Stephen Minister is the best thing I could have done for myself. Stephen Ministry is transformational. As a care receiver, you’ll grow so much through your Stephen Minister’s care, concern, and compassion for you—you may not even recognize yourself afterward! And you’ll be a lot better off for it.

I would encourage anyone who is suffering, discouraged, or going through a difficult time to ask for a Stephen Minister. And if someone offers a Stephen Minister to you, say, “Yes!” It really is life-changing.

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## **Stephen Ministry**

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Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used by thousands of congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people.

Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of lay-people—Stephen Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, unemployment, hospitalization, loneliness, divorce, financial stress, a terminal illness, or other life difficulties.

Visit **[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)** to learn more about Stephen Ministry and to watch online video stories about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people’s lives.