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Religion and Violence e-Learning

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Series Title	Brief Description
The 3Rs	Read Reflect Respond: Religious Reflections on Abuse Lesson #2: Themes from the Garden of Gethsemane This series asks pastors to read a short article, reflect on its message and impact, and to respond to other e-learners and group facilitators interacting with the same content material.
DV101	Introduction to Domestic Violence Introduction to DV 101 This series provides accurate, up-to-date, training to enable religious leaders to become aware of the prevalence and severity of abuse and to learn of best practices in terms of response.
L2L	Linking to the Literature Question #2: The Role of Faith Communities For the religious leader who has already received training on issues of domestic violence, this series is meant as continuing education to engage with those topics currently being discussed in the scholarly academic community. It is more advanced in terms of content and engagement.
B=B	Building Bridges Lesson #1: Religious leaders are chosen by victims This series focuses on bridge building—linking the community of faith to the wider community. Here we will reflect on paving the pathway from the steeple to the shelter, how to work together in a collaborative fashion, and understanding the unique role of the religious professional in an overall community response to abuse.
UFF	Useful Fast Facts Lesson #1: Fast Facts on Elder Abuse This series considers data on abuse and its impact on pastoral ministry. We will provide information for sermons, Bible Studies, youth meetings and even for intervention with families in crisis.
Mending	Mending Broken Hearts Lesson #1: Clair & George Brown's Story This series considers data collected by our research team and offers pastors a rare glimpse into how parishioners feel about their intervention. We offer both stories of hope and stories of missed opportunities.
Hope	Stories of Hope and Inspiration After Violence Lesson #1: Bill's Story This series provides real stories of men and women, impacted by violence in their personal lives, who have been part of our research projects.

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Mending Broken Hearts

Over the last 15 years, our research team has interviewed hundreds of pastors on their knowledge of abuse and their experience in responding to victims and their families. Using the methods of the social sciences, our data has been collected and analyzed by highly trained personnel. E-learners interested in the mechanics of the research initiative should consult the refereed scholarly publications of the research team or other published work by Nancy Nason-Clark.

The stories chosen for the *Mending Broken Heart* series offer a rare glimpse into how pastors respond to families in crisis. Throughout the series, we offer both stories of hope and stories of missed opportunities. The names and other identifying characteristics of the women, the clergy and the community have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Claire and George Brown were both schoolteachers, living in a suburban community outside a major industrial city. He had a history of addictions, and when he was drinking, George acted resentful and nasty toward his family. In these situations, he often became violent.

Claire sought out pastoral help initially because she was concerned about how George's drinking was affecting Tommy and Mike, the couple's school-aged children. She worried that they were frightened of their father. She worried that George might deliberately harm one of them in a bout of rage. She worried that their childhood memories would be clouded by the picture of their father in a drunken stupor.

The truth was—Claire worried a lot. And she had reason to be concerned.

Inside the pastoral study, where safety and confidentiality was assured, Claire began to recount the cycle that was controlling her life. George would always promise to change his ways, to stop drinking to excess and to begin to build a relationship with their sons. She never considered herself a battered wife even though on many occasions she had received bruises and beatings...
(*story continued on website*)

Questions to Consider:

1. What are Claire's greatest needs at this time in her life?
2. How did Pastor Steve begin to win Claire's confidence?
3. What might a local congregation offer to a woman in Claire's situation?
4. How would you assess Steve's intervention with the Brown family? Would you have responded in a different or similar way?
5. What would you see as the next step in pastoral care?

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- [Ask an advocate](#)
- [Ask a pastor](#)
- [Ask a police officer](#)
- [Ask a therapist](#)

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