

## **Suicide for Communities of Faith**

Three Phases of Suicide care: Prevention, Intervention, Postvention/reintegration

### **1. Prevention:**

Culture of openness: Experiences of suicide, thoughts and feelings of suicide are talked about.

Awareness: Suicide is highlighted regularly within your congregation.

Avenues of support: Are there known resources for support should people need them?

### **2. Intervention:**

ULTIMATE GOAL: SAFETY.

Intervention model: ACE (Ask, Care, Escort).

Intervention is an EVERYONE skill, you do not have to be an “expert!”

Referrals for safety: medical, mental health, emergency responders, clergy.

### **3. Postvention/reintegration:**

“Postvention” – how do we intercede for persons after they reveal thoughts of suicide/attempt suicide?  
How do we welcome them back into the community of faith?

Barriers to reintegrating people back into our communities: stigma, shame, guilt, theological beliefs, etc.

Resources for support.

### **4. “A suicide occurs.....what do we do?”**

Communities of faith offer healing through congregational care, rituals, community space.

Religion and faith are a “double edged sword” – focus on “person centered care” and work together.

Links and relationships with mental health professionals are a MUST. Research shows that the best care happens when faith leaders and mental health professionals work together.

**Suicide Resource List:**

[Suicide Prevention Resource List \(mn.gov\)](#)

[SafeTalk Suicide Prevention Course | LivingWorks](#)

[ASIST Suicide Prevention Training Program | LivingWorks](#)

[LivingWorks Start – Online Suicide Prevention Training](#)