5 Stages of Grief: a new way of being

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Presented by

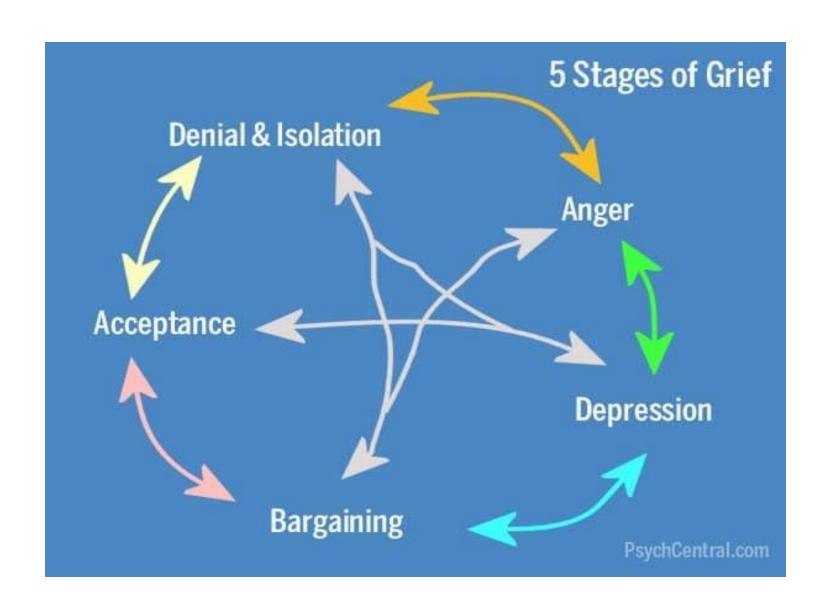
LT Erik Neider, TRACEN Petaluma Command Chaplain and Ms. Lena Gavello, District 11 Employee Assistance Program Coordinator

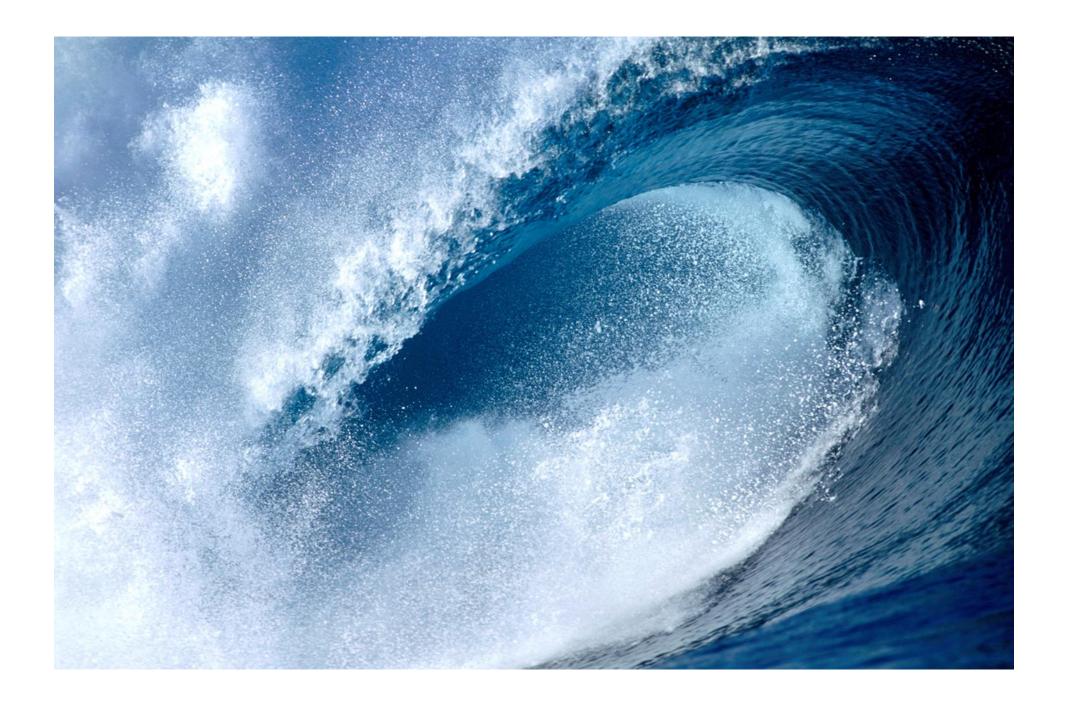
Grief



The five stages of grief were first outlined by Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross:

- Denial: You cannot believe your loved one has really passed away.
- Anger: You're mad, perhaps at everyone, perhaps even toward the deceased for having died.
- Guilt: Perhaps over what was said or not said before your loved one passed away.
- Bargaining: You think you should have died instead, or that if you're a better person in the future no one else will die.
- Acceptance: While you still hurt, you find a balance in life.





Norris Cotton Cancer Institute at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, advises that you may also experience:

- Lose your appetite
- Feel aches and pains
- Sleep too much or not enough
- Feel melancholy or hopeless
- Feel angry at yourself and your loved ones
- Feel guilty for things left unsaid and undone
- Feel unable to concentrate



Things that may help:

- Solitude if you need time alone to experience your grief
- Time with friends and family
- Accepting help with paperwork, chores, etc
- Seeking spiritual support
- Getting adequate rest
- Sticking to routines
- Enjoying nature, such as walks outside or having some plants brought indoors
- Listening to music
- Creativity, such as writing, drawing, painting, handcrafts

6 Daily Helpful Steps:

- 1. What am I <u>GRATEFUL</u> for today?
- 2. Who am I CHECKING IN ON or CONNECTING WITH today?
- 3. What expectations of "normal" am I <u>LETTING GO</u> of today?
- 4. How am I GETTING OUTSIDE today?
- 5. How am I MOVING MY BODY today?
- 6. What **BEAUTY** am I either creating, cultivating, or inviting in today?