# A SMORGASBORD OF GRIEF COUNSELING TOOLS

Douglas C. Smith, M.Div., MA, MS
University of Wisconsin

#### **Counselor Preparation**

Ho'oponopono

Meaning of word

Dr. Ihaleakala Hew Len

We are 100% responsible for the problem

**Examples** 

Zero State

The four statements

#### **Grief Diaries**

- Chapter One: My thoughts or feelings about my value as a person
- Chapter Two: My thoughts or feelings regarding a power greater than me
- Chapter Three: My thoughts or feelings about my future

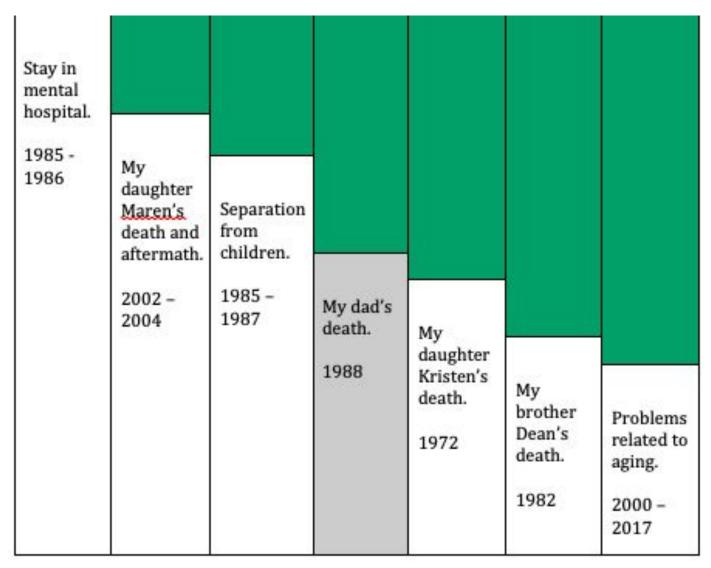
#### Making Memories Manifest

- Memory Books
- Memory Jars
- Memory Quilts
- Memory Sculptures

# The Grief Recovery Handbook James & Friedman 2009

Loss Intensity Graph
Relationship Complexity Graph
Letter to Finish The Unfinished

#### Loss Intensity Graph



## Relationship Complexity Graph

#### Positive Moments

together.  His acceptance of me after my mental breakdown.  1986	His call for help with Dan. 1971

#### **Negative Moments**

His death.		
1988	His treatment of my mother. 1961 - 1988	The promise he broke to me when I was in fifth grade.
		1958

#### Letter to Finish the Unfinished

- Address the person by name
- Begin: "I've been examining relationship . . .
- Offer apologies
- Offer forgiveness
- State some positives?
- Declare wishes?
- Say: "Goodbye"

#### Wounded Healer Resume

- List your major losses, shortcomings and imperfections, biggest personal failures, physical handicaps, and emotional handicaps.
- Elaborate on what you've learned from all these things.
- Create a job title and job description based upon what you've learn.

#### **Breath Meditations**

- The word "breath"
- Thich Nhat Hahn
  - Strong/Mountain
  - Fresh/Flower
  - Calm/Smile
- "Breathe on me, Breath of God . . . "

#### Tonglen

- Breathe in pain and suffering
- Breathe out joy and happiness
   individual to individual
   client's personal practice
   team to individual
   individual to world

#### Collaborative Prayers

- Direct approach
- Do you mind if I pray in the way that . . .
- Generic prayer
- Let's pray together, you begin . . .
- Let's pray in silence, I'll be praying for . . .
- I have you now and I will keep you . . .

#### **Guided Imagery**

- Review guided imagery format
- Use client's resources whenever possible
- Provide an escape mechanism
- Ease into experience
- Emphasize gender neutral words
- Refer to multiple senses
- Ease out of experience
- Always process

#### Virtual Dreams

- Addressing Issues of Addiction: yourself; your drug of choice; someone who is crying; someone who is angry; a fortune teller; a teaching moment with a child.
- Your Spiritual Mission: yourself; a boat; a dangerous voyage; a holy woman on an island; her message to you; a voyage hom.

#### Forgiveness Flowers

#### Self or Other

Red = words or deeds that caused anger Yellow = words or deeds that caused sadness Green = all the other hurtful things

### Silence

### Tools for the Holidays

Thanksgiving Tablecloth Gift-giving Holiday

#### When None of the Above Works

#### References

- James, J. & Friedman, R. <u>The Grief Recovery</u> <u>Handbook</u>, 2009.
- Mayo, P. <u>The Healing Sorrow Workbook:</u>
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- Neimeyer, R. & Torres, C. & Smith, D. "The Virtual Dream: Rewriting Stories of Loss and Grief," 2011, <u>Death Studies</u>, 35(7), p. 646-672.

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   <u>Techniques for Healing Body and Soul</u>, 1997.
- Smith, D. <u>The Complete Book of Counseling</u> the Dying and the Grieving, 2003.