

27. Consoling The Grieving (2:50)

I'm in law school. My mom has a heart attack and dies. My dad has colon cancer and then he lives about a year and then he dies. And then of course my brother had Hodgkin's and in two and a half years he dies.

So those three die all during my being in school. I was only in school two years and three months. But with Aunt Jean, she had no indication. No indication. She was still teaching. She was I think about ready to retire but she never did get to retire. She just had a stroke and unfortunately I think probably the problem was that she smoked too much and she drank too much.

Consoling someone, having lost a loved one, when I find out about a loss, I call them almost immediately and then I talk to them until I get them to calm down and come back to normal and feel like they got somebody loving them that's right there at their fingertips ready to help them. I get them to just talk to me almost normally and then I'll let them go and to get into the details. But I like to talk to them until I feel they're calmed down and kind of got things straightened out in their mind a little bit.

That's hard to describe. I've known these people for so long they're like my kids and I can talk to them until I feel they got things back to normal pretty much. The shock, the sadness of losing someone very near is kind of toned down a little bit by just talking to them and getting them to feel like we're back to normal between us.

Then that's when I can say I'll talk to you again and call me anytime, yeah, anytime I said. And that's usually when I tell them I don't care any time of the day or night just call me. If it's 2 o'clock in the morning here, I don't care, just call me if you want to talk to me. One nice thing about the class is they're not alone. This class is really pretty good at supporting the people that have lost mates. They really do show up well.

Related Primary Leadership Principles

Ability to Embrace Change	Example
Attitude	Recognition
Capacity to Care	Self-Awareness
Connectivity	