

SUPPLEMENTAL DIGITAL CONTENT

Strategies for Virtual Bereavement Care

by
Briana Marie Carr

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ABSTRACT: The contagiousness of some illnesses (e.g., COVID-19) limits the ways in which families can interact with their dying loved ones who have been admitted to the hospital, especially in the intensive care unit. As a result, nurses have developed culturally relevant strategies for virtual bereavement care for patients and families pre-death, peri-death, and post-death. This article provides specific ways nurses can support, communicate, and facilitate meaningful rituals when patients die in isolation.

KEYWORDS: bereavement care; complicated grief; COVID-19; end of life; hospice and palliative care; nursing; pandemic; telemedicine; spiritual care

Table 1. Free Resources for Advance Directives (AD)

Resource Name	Description
https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/advance-care-planning-health-care-directives	Government website that describes advance care planning and the steps for obtaining an AD.
https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/financial-legal/free-printable-advance-directives/	Provides state-specific information about AD and Power of Attorney with access to an editable document to create an AD.
https://www.cancer.org/treatment/finding-and-paying-for-treatment/understanding-financial-and-legal-matters/advance-directives/types-of-advance-health-care-directives.html	Offers information about AD, Power of Attorney, and the difference between palliative care and comfort care.
https://www.deathwithdignity.org/advance-directive/	Provides information about AD and Power of Attorney, and offers a link to a site to create a state-specific AD.

Table 3. List of Scripture Passages Related to Grief from the NIV Bible

Bible Verse	Passage
Psalms 34:18	"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
2 Corinthians 1:3-4	"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we may comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."
Matthew 5:4	"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
Revelation 21:4	"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
Luke 6:21	"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."
John 14:27	"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
Joshua 1:9	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
Proverbs 3:5-6	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."
Psalms 73:26	"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
Philippians 4:6-8	"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."

Isaiah 53:4	"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted."
Psalms 27:1	"The Lord is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life--of whom shall I be afraid?"
Romans 8:18	"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."
2 Timothy 4:7-8	"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."
Psalms 23:4	"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."
Romans 15:13	"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as your trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

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