



STAND IN THE GAP FOR WIDOWS

COFFEE, CAKE & CONVERSATION

MINISTRY GUIDE

Stand in the Gap for Widows is a research-based ministry that partners with churches, organizations and people of passion to fulfill God's calling found in James 1:27 to look after His widows. **Stand in the Gap for Widows is designed to be volunteer driven, not clergy intensive.** The model of SITGM for Widows is, **"We care for you so that you can care for your widows."** Partnering with SITGM for Widows means that you receive monthly care and consultation from our staff as we walk alongside you in the development of your own widow ministry through the utilization of our research and Widow Ministry Tool Kit. This is a tool kit of best-case practices, helpful suggestions and practical information that we provide to our partners for a nominal yearly Partner Consultation Subscription investment. In our Tool Kit, you will find information on how to establish and maintain a widow ministry. Our widow ministry guides include social, small group, practical needs and card & book ministries.

We have created the Coffee, Cake & Conversation event opportunity ministry guide, as a means for you to introduce the Stand in the Gap for Widows Tool Kit to the widows you plan to serve and potential volunteers or to enhance your current widow ministry by introducing new content.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation is an event opportunity that allows you to learn what type of support your widow community needs and how you can best serve them. It will also give you the opportunity to recruit volunteers to support your widow ministry.

We have developed Coffee, Cake & Conversation to help you plan and host your event with three options.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation - Widow Only Event

This is an event conversation with widows to learn what they need and how you can best serve them.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation - Volunteer Event

This is an event conversation to educate volunteers on how your organization can best serve your widow community.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation - Widow & Volunteer Event

This is an event conversation combining both widows and volunteers. Stand in the Gap for Widows recommends having separate events, but we realize that is not always optimal for every situation.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation includes:

- [Coffee, Cake & Conversation Invitation Template](#)
- [Event Details Guide](#)
- [Event agenda guide](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation & PDF](#)
- [Ice Breakers](#)
- [Volunteer Comment/Response Card Template](#)

- [Widow Need Questionnaire / Response Card Template Questionnaire](#)

We will do our best to assist you with changes to these documents. Contact widows@sitgm.org with questions.

Stand in the Gap for Widows highly recommends the use of Coffee, Cake, and Conversation model to launch your widows ministry. Our research suggests that by learning what your widows need and knowing you have a base of volunteers will increase your chances of a successful ministry.

Once you have completed your event(s), our Widow Program Director will consult with you on your best course of action to begin your ministry. The consultation will include the analysis of the results from your response cards, availability and abilities of your volunteer base, your church or organization's support systems, and the gifts and talents of your widow ministry leader.

HELPFUL INSIGHTS & PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Coffee, Cake & Conversation Invitation/Promotion

We suggest sending the event invitation to your guests at least two weeks prior to your scheduled date. It will also be helpful to share the invitation in the church Sunday bulletin, church and Sunday school newsletters and on any church social media accounts. You can also promote this event in your community to encourage other widows to come. In your correspondence regarding the event, mention the purpose of the event is to learn how the church can best support widows, present widow ministry ideas and recruit widow ministry members and volunteers.

PowerPoint Presentation & PDF

The PowerPoint presentation is organized in such a way as to inform the attendees why it is Biblically important to implement a widow ministry, ask questions to create a dialog about each widow ministry best-case practice with the widows, and then follow up with a program to support the widows. The presentation is also in PDF form if you prefer to use handouts or if you want to have takeaway materials.

Volunteer Response Card

It is important to capture information from those attending the event. The information will be utilized when determining which widow ministries to introduce to your church or organization. Most of our Stand in the Gap for Widows partners have chosen to establish our widow ministries best-case practices one or two at a time. Many of our widows' ministries have also partnered with their men's ministry to create their practical needs ministry to widows.

Widow Response Card

The response card needs questionnaire is designed to help the church or organization gather information concerning the needs of the widows they are serving. We have learned that widows have a difficult time asking for help and believe gathering this information is vital to the success of your ministry.

How can Stand in the Gap for Widows help you?

- We are happy to help you reach outside your church or organization walls by promoting your Coffee, Cake & Conversation event and any of your widow events on our Stand in the Gap for Widows Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/StandintheGapMinistriesForWidows/>
- We are here to provide needed edits and support as you plan this event.

How can you help Stand in the Gap for Widows & our partners?

- If you enhance or modify our materials, please let us know so we can share your ideas with our partners.
- If you create a new best-case practice for your widows, we would love to add it to our tool kit. We are happy to give you and your church full credit.
- Celebrate your successes with us. We love to share photos and quotes from widows and volunteers on our Facebook page and website.

Please contact our widows team at widows@sitgm.org for assistance or to share your ideas. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission to connect people in need with people who care.