Resource List:
Mental Health

The resources listed below align with Focus on the Family’s philosophy and mission. We trust you will find them helpful. If you would like to obtain any of these items, call us toll free at 1-800-A-FAMILY, or visit our online store at store.focusonthefamily.com. (The information is regularly updated, but there is still the possibility that an item originally available from Focus on the Family might now be unavailable.) You may also be interested in the content posted on our website at focusonthefamily.com.

Included

Anxiety & Fear
Bipolar Disorder
Depression
Trauma & PTSD
For Pastors
E-Booklets & Information Sheets
Related Resource Lists
Websites and Q&As
Referrals

Books

The Anxiety Cure by Dr. Archibald Hart (2001) • 9780849942969
Hart explores anxiety and the roles played by brain chemistry, physiological responses, and patterns of thinking—and he compassionately offers steps for holistic healing.

The Anxious Christian: Can God Use Your Anxiety for Good? by Rhett Smith (2012) • 9780802413222
Whether worried about work, finances, marriage, or any other life concerns, God can use your fear for spiritual growth. Smith suggests looking at anxiety as a catalyst to help you become all the Lord intends.

Anxious for Nothing: God’s Cure for the Cares of Your Soul by John MacArthur (2012) • 9781434702975
There’s no end to the number of reasons we could be anxious in life. But MacArthur explores Scripture to explain how to release those concerns to God’s care and rest in His peace.

Breaking Free from Fear by Kay Arthur (2012) • 9780307729859
A six-session study examines the roots of fear and explores Scripture to explain the trustworthiness of God and what it means to live a fearless life.

Fear: A Spiritual Navigation by Jo Kadlecek (2000) • 9780877882688
Offering thoughts from historical writers as well as sharing the effects of fear in her own life, Kadlecek encourages readers to place their trust in an unchanging God who can see them safely home.

Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear by Max Lucado (2012) • 9780849946394
Fear can hold us captive and can influence our choices and perceptions about life, God, and other people. But Lucado shows how to replace fear with faith—so we can live with confidence and joy.
Getting Unstuck by Dr. Linda Mintle (2000) • 9780884196525 •
Mintle gently addresses how depression, anxiety, and eating disorders affect women. Learn to recognize negative influences to your emotional health, and find strategies to help you move forward.

Helping Your Kids Deal With Anger, Fear, and Sadness by H. Norman Wright (2005) • 9780736913331 •
Wright uses Scripture and offers practical tools to compassionately address anger, fear, and depression—and to help parents guide their children in handling these difficult emotions.

How to Handle Your Emotions: Anger, Depression, Fear, Grief, Rejection, and Self-Worth by June Hunt (2008)
• 9780736923286 •
How can we keep negative feelings from getting the best of us? With biblical insights and practical applications, Hunt offers guidance to help work through these emotions.

Let. It. Go: Breaking Free from Fear and Anxiety by Tony Evans (2005) • 9780802443786 •
Evans shares thoughts from God’s Word about moving beyond fear and anxiety—to let go of the past, to live in the present, and to trust God for the future.

Letting Go of Worry and Anxiety by Pam Vredevelt (2001) • 9781576739556 •
For many, worry has become a habit. Drawing from decades of clinical experience, research, and scriptural insight, Vredevelt suggests steps to embracing a more peaceful life.

Living Free in an Anxious World by R. Lanny Hunter and Victor Hunter (2010) • 9780891126805 •
Written by a physician and a pastor, this book offers a holistic approach to addressing worry and anxiety. Learn the physiological background for these emotions and how to courageously handle the experiences of life.

Overcoming Anxiety, Worry, and Fear by Gregory Jantz, Ph.D., and Ann McMurray (2011) • 9780800719685 •
Millions of Americans are burdened by an anxiety disorder, but Jantz helps you discover causes and resolutions as he explores Scripture and offers therapeutic insights.

Overcoming Fear and Discouragement by Kay Arthur (1999) • 9780736908108 •
Through the biblical books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, learn about the lives of ordinary men and women who encountered and overcame fearful and discouraging situations—and how you can conquer these emotions.

Singing the Songs of the Brokenhearted by Bill Crowder (2009) • 9781572932746 •
For hearts broken by anger, bitterness, fear, despair, or any number of debilitating emotions, the Psalms can give words to our anguish. Crowder explores several specific passages to help us apply God’s wisdom to our journey.

Take Charge of Your Emotions by Dr. Linda Solie (2013) • 9780764211133 •
“Seven Steps to Overcoming Depression, Anxiety, and Anger”—Pointing to the strength and hope available in Christ, Solie helps you recognize and find relief from negative or destructive feelings and behaviors.

Tame Your Fears and Transform Them into Faith, Confidence, and Action by Carol Kent (2003) • 97815768333599 •
Kent suggests ten fears most common to women (including rejection and a loss of control) and offers steps to overcoming and allowing them to deepen your confidence in a caring Heavenly Father.

Walking on Water When You Feel Like You’re Drowning by Tommy Nelson and Steve Leavitt (2012) • 9781604826791 •
Whether dealing with depression, anxiety, fear, or other emotional distress, individuals often feel isolated and hopeless. But as Nelson shares his personal experience with depression, he and Leavitt offer encouragement through a biblical approach to healing—integrating mind, body, and soul.

What Women Fear: Walking in Faith That Transforms by Angie Smith (2011) • 9780805464290 •
Sharing her own journey through fear, as well as offering stories of biblical men and women who fought for faith in the midst of uncertainty, Smith encourages readers with the reminder that God can redeem every hard place.

What Women Should Know About Facing Fear by Christin Ditchfield (2013) • 9780891123729 •
Sharing her personal experiences with fear, Ditchfield helps you understand the devastation fear can cause, identify unhealthy reactions to fear, and find courage to walk in freedom.

When Someone You Love Suffers From Depression or Mental Illness by Cecil Murphey (2004) • 9780834121348 •
Day-to-day activities and special challenges can be overwhelming when coming alongside those with mental illness. Murphey encourages you to care for yourself and keep your eyes on God in the midst of uncertainty.
Worry Free Living by Arnie Cole and Michael Ross (2014) • 9781780782263 •
“Finding Relief From Anxiety and Stress for You and Your Family” — Learn how stress affects our mind, body, and spirit. Find easy-to-follow solutions based on Scripture and input from a variety of medical professionals.

Helping Kids Conquer Their Fears (Danny Huerta) • 9781624711909 •
A licensed counselor, Huerta explains why young children experience fear and how parents can respond. Rather than discounting their children’s concerns, parents can help them learn to have courage and appropriately face fears.

How Mental Illness Impacts Families (Dr. Jared Pingleton, Dr. Don Graber, Dr. Ricardo Whyte) • 9781624717932 •
Mental illness can take a variety of forms, such as anxiety, depression and phobias—but it’s often misunderstood or goes untreated. Experts compassionately discuss the medical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of mental illness, and they point listeners to sources of help.

Learning to Lay Down Your Fears (Angie Smith) • 9781624715792 •
Smith shares struggles she’s faced since she was a small child—including questioning her purpose, God’s plans, and if she’s a “good enough” Christian—and how God is teaching her to trust Him and rest in His peace.

Moving Beyond Fear and Worry (Max Lucado) • 9781624713491 •
Lucado talks about common fears and explains why fear is so prevalent in our society. But he shares the encouraging truth that we are all significant to God—and through Him and the love of Christ, we can find courage to face our fears.

Blue Genes: Breaking Free from the Chemical Imbalances that Affect Your Moods, Your Mind, Your Life, and Your Loved Ones by Paul Meier, M.D. (2006) • 9781414312163 •
Many psychological problems can be linked to chemical imbalances in the brain. Meier discusses the difference that counseling and medicine can make toward resolving issues that affect mood and personality.

Mood Swings by Paul Meier, M.D., Stephen Arterburn, M.Ed., and Frank Minirth, M.D. (2000) • 9780785267713 •
Learn the physiological influences of bipolar-related disorders, and find hope through medical, spiritual, and lifestyle intervention.

When Someone You Love Suffers From Depression or Mental Illness by Cecil Murphey (2004) • 9780834121348 •
Day-to-day activities and special challenges can be overwhelming when coming alongside those with mental illness. Murphey encourages you to care for yourself and keep your eyes on God in the midst of uncertainty.

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Many psychological problems can be linked to chemical imbalances in the brain. This resource discusses the difference counseling and medicine can make toward resolving issues that affect mood and personality.

Hope Again: A 30-Day Play for Conquering Depression by Mark A. Sutton and Dr. Bruce Hennigan (2001) • 9781433683688
Christians struggle with depression on a regular basis. Conquering Depression draws on personal experiences and is grounded in biblical and medical principles to offer a 30-day plan for managing and overcoming depression.

The Freedom from Depression Workbook by Dr. Les Carter and Dr. Frank Minirth (1996) • 9780840762078
This workbook features a 12-step plan to define and identify depression, understand the physical and mental factors of depression, and develop keys to lasting change.

Getting Unstuck by Dr. Linda Mintle (2000) • 9780884196525
Mintle gently addresses how depression, anxiety, and eating disorders affect women. Learn to recognize negative influences to your emotional health, and find strategies to help you move forward.

Help! Someone I Love Is Depressed by Greg L. Ross (2006) • 9781620202067
Find practical insights for those who struggle with depression, and for their families, friends, caregivers, and churches.

Helping Your Kids Deal With Anger, Fear, and Sadness by H. Norman Wright (2005) • 9780736913331
Wright uses Scripture and offers practical tools to compassionately address anger, fear, and depression—and to help parents guide their children in handling these difficult emotions.

Hope Again: When Life Hurts and Dreams Fade by Dr. Charles R. Swindoll (1997) • 9780849940880
Swindoll offers encouragement and hope to those who are struggling. He gives guidance for finding God’s purpose in suffering, for rebuilding life after failure, for allowing God to share grief, and for finding joy when life doesn’t seem fair.

How to Handle Your Emotions: Anger, Depression, Fear, Grief, Rejection, and Self-Worth by June Hunt (2008) • 9780736923286
How can we keep negative feelings from getting the best of us? With biblical insights and practical applications, Hunt offers guidance to help work through emotions.

Is Your Teen Stressed or Depressed: A Practical and Inspirational Guide for Parents of Hurting Teenagers by Dr. Archibald Hart and Dr. Catherine Hart Weber (2008) • 9780785289401
Many teens are overwhelmed with today’s increased pressure. Discover the link between stress, anxiety, and depression; find the right treatment for your teen; and nurture healthy attitudes—not just to get well, but to stay well.

Singing the Songs of the Brokenhearted by Bill Crowder (2009) • 9781572932746
For hearts broken by anger, bitterness, fear, despair, or any number of debilitating emotions, the Psalms can give words to our anguish. Crowder explores several specific passages to help us apply God’s wisdom to our journey.

Take Charge of Your Emotions by Dr. Linda Solie (2013) • 9780764211133
“Seven Steps to Overcoming Depression, Anxiety, and Anger”—Pointing to the strength and hope available in Christ, Solie helps you recognize and find relief from negative or destructive feelings and behaviors.

Turning Your Down Into Up: A Realistic Plan for Healing From Depression by Gregory Jantz, Ph.D., and Ann McMurray (2013) • 9780307732101
Be encouraged with hope for healing. This book includes a whole-person plan for treating depression: spiritual renewal, emotional wellness, environmental balance, physical health, relational healing, and “technology detox.”

Unmasking Male Depression by Dr. Archibald Hart (2001) • 9780849940705
Millions of men become depressed in their lifetimes—with the effects impacting their families, work, and relationship with God. Hart shares about his personal struggle to offer good news: There is hope for healing.
Walking on Water When You Feel Like You’re Drowning by Tommy Nelson and Steve Leavitt (2012) • 9781589977228
Whether dealing with depression, anxiety, fear, or other emotional distress, individuals often feel isolated and hopeless. But as Nelson shares his personal experience with depression, he and Leavitt offer encouragement through a biblical approach to healing—integrating mind, body, and soul.

When Someone You Love Suffers From Depression or Mental Illness by Cecil Murphey (2004) • 9780834121348
Day-to-day activities and special challenges can be overwhelming when coming alongside those with mental illness. Murphey encourages you to care for yourself and keep your eyes on God in the midst of uncertainty.

When the Darkness Will Not Lift: Doing What We Can While We Wait for God—and Joy by John Piper (2007) • 9781581348767
Even the most faithful, focused Christians can encounter depression and spiritual darkness. Piper offers comfort, guidance, and hope—affirming “the wise, strong hand of God to hold us, even when we have no strength to hold Him.”

Where Is God: Finding His Presence, Purpose, and Power in Difficult Times by Dr. John Townsend (2012) • 9780849964619
Townsend observes that it’s the “unfixability” of our problems and our own inability to solve them that keeps us seeking God. He shares powerful stories and practical applications to assure us of God’s transforming presence in our daily lives.

Embracing God’s Promises for My Life (Sheila Walsh) • 9781624714351
Walsh shares how God has used her brokenness through shame, depression, and perfectionism to help reach others. She encourages listeners to be vulnerable before the Lord so their days are filtered through His love.

Finding Hope After My Darkest Day (Kristen Anderson) • 9781624713903
Anderson shares her testimony of surviving being run over by a train in a suicide attempt—losing her legs in the process. She recounts coming to faith in Christ, and she talks about what parents can do to reach out to a depressed teen.

Finding Hope in the Midst of Postpartum Depression (Jerusha Clark) • 9781624717406
Many women experience postpartum depression. But Clark offers encouragement and advice in a discussion based on her book, Living Beyond Postpartum Depression: Help and Hope for the Hurting Mom and Those Around Her.

How Mental Illness Impacts Families (Dr. Jared Pingleton, Dr. Don Graber, Dr. Ricardo Whyte) • 9781624717932
Mental illness can take a variety of forms, such as anxiety, depression, and phobias—but it’s often misunderstood or goes untreated. Experts compassionately discuss the medical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of mental illness, and they point listeners to sources of help.

Learning to Lay Down Your Fears (Angie Smith) • 9781624715792
Smith shares struggles she’s faced since she was a small child—including questioning her purpose, God’s plans, and if she’s a “good enough” Christian—and how God is teaching her to trust Him and rest in His peace.

My Journey Through Depression (Pastor Tommy Nelson) • 9781624711862
Nelson’s schedule of pastoring, writing, and teaching led to burnout, illness, and depression he didn’t know how to cope with. Calling on God, he received encouragement from his family, church, and others who helped him find healing.

Seeking God in Hard Times (Dr. John Townsend) • 1000680
Townsend offers encouragement from his book Where Is God? Finding His Presence, Purpose and Power in Difficult Times, and he explains why it’s important to seek help from a caring pastor, spiritual mentor, or professional counselor when going through hard times.

Shining a Light on Depression (Dr. Gary Lovejoy, Dr. Greg Knopf) • 9781624710841
Lovejoy and Knopf address the difficulty many depressed Christians have in understanding their experience from the perspective of their faith.
Understanding and Coping With Trauma by Gail Schra  •  Focus on the Family online booklet
Trauma can affect all of us, resulting in emotional distress and shock that can overwhelm our abilities to cope—potentially leading to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Learn the symptoms of trauma and how to find help toward healing.

When Someone You Love Suffers From Depression or Mental Illness by Cecil Murphey (2004)  •  9780834121348  •
Day-to-day activities and special challenges can be overwhelming when coming alongside those with mental illness. Murphey encourages you to care for yourself and keep your eyes on God in the midst of uncertainty.

When War Comes Home by Chris Adsit, Rahnella Adsit, and Marshéle Carter Waddell  •  offered through Cru Ministries
This resource provides a biblical framework with advice from counselors and medical professionals for addressing the struggles of war, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

How God Saved a Military Marriage (Chad and Kathy Robichaux)  •  9781683321521  •
Both from broken homes, the Robichauxs married right out of high school. Chad is a former Marine in Special Ops, former firefighter, former police officer, and former professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter. After eight tours in Afghanistan, he suffered from PTSD, neglected his family, and became involved in affairs. Chad and Kathy separated, but Kathy worked to set her own heart right with God while God was helping Chad overcome PTSD symptoms and straighten out his priorities. Their marriage of 20 years is now stronger than ever, and they operate Mighty Oaks, a Christian outreach to soldiers who’ve experienced military trauma.

How Mental Illness Impacts Families (Dr. Jared Pingleton, Dr. Don Graber, Dr. Ricardo Whyte)  •  9781624717932  •
Mental illness can take a variety of forms, such as anxiety, depression and phobias—but it’s often misunderstood or goes untreated. Experts compassionately discuss the medical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of mental illness, and they point listeners to sources of help.

The Impact of PTSD on Military Families (Panel)  •  9781624718168  •
Many military families struggle with the aftereffects of war as men and women return home with physical wounds and psychological pain. Guests discuss their experiences with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and they encourage listeners to seek help for their own families.

Caring for People God’s Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma edited by Dr. Tim Clinton, Dr. Archibald Hart, and George Ohlschlager (2009)  •  9780785297758  •
Learn to care practically for the most common issues brought to Christian counselors and pastors.

Christian Mindful Manners by Marvis Williams (2010)  •  9781609571269  •
Williams offers a biblically based approach to how the church can and should respond to those who struggle with mental illness.

Fresh Hope: Living Well in Spite of a Mental Health Diagnosis by Brad Hoefs and Dr. Michael Egger (2013)  •  9781625094254  •
Hoefs shares his journey of resigning as senior pastor of a large church and starting Fresh Hope after being diagnosed with a bipolar disorder. Whether you or a loved one suffer from mood disorders, be encouraged that there is help.
Help! Someone I Love Is Depressed by Greg L. Ross (2006) • 9781620202067 •
Find practical insights for those who struggle with depression, and for their families, friends, caregivers, and churches.

Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church’s Mission by Amy Simpson (2013) • 9780830843046 •
Simpson combines surveys from pastors, clinical research, and her family’s personal experience to offer a better way of coming alongside and loving well those who suffer from mental illness.

A Trusted Friend When It Matters Most: Responding with Wise Counsel by Tim Clinton and Pat Springs • offered through LifeWay
Six sessions help participants learn to listen, develop compassion, use Scripture and prayer, share the Gospel, and develop a list of professional referrals.

Website & E-Book

Focus on the Family Website: Thriving Pastor—Mental Illness and the Church

- thrivingpastor.com/MentalHealth
  Thriving Pastor exists to equip church leaders to help the church and community. This area of the site offers research, articles, books, and various other materials to shed light on mental health and to support hurting families.

- Serving Those with Mental Illness
  This e-book provides a summary of the latest research findings from LifeWay Research on mental health and the church—along with helpful articles, brief medical overviews for acute mental illness, and recommended resources.

Online Booklets & Info Sheets (complimentary)

First Steps: What to do now that your loved one has been diagnosed with a mental illness
- media.focusonthefamily.com/pastoral/pdf/First-Steps-Resource.pdf

Daily Steps: Developing a holistic mental health care plan for your loved one

Difficult Steps: Navigating destructive behavior and legal issues with a mentally ill loved one

Anxiety Disorders by Donald Graber, M.D.
- media.focusonthefamily.com/pastoral/pdf/FX855_AnxietyDisorders%20_08-12-14.pdf

Bipolar Disorder by Donald Graber, M.D.
- media.focusonthefamily.com/pastoral/pdf/FX447_BipolarDisorder_01-05-12.pdf

Depression by Donald Graber, M.D.
- media.focusonthefamily.com/pastoral/pdf/FX856_Depression_ABriefOverview_08-26-14.pdf

Schizophrenia by Donald Graber, M.D.
- media.focusonthefamily.com/topicinfo/schizophrenia-brief-overview.pdf
Resource Lists

- focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a/resources-and-referrals
  Find recommended resources and referrals listed by topic, including:

  **Comfort & Encouragement** • RL003
  **Esteem** • RL014
  **Grief & Loss** • RL045
  **Information on Abuse** • RL044
  **Information on Sexual Abuse** • RL044A
  **Military Issues** • RL036
  **Separation and Divorce** • RL041
  **Stress** • RL015
  **Substance Abuse & Addiction** • RL049
  **Suicide** • RL073

Emotional Health

- focusonthefamily.com/lifechallenges/emotional_health.aspx
  Several series of articles offer insights, resources, next steps, and referrals on topics of mental health.

Thriving Pastor—Mental Illness and the Church

- thrivingpastor.com/MentalHealth
  Although designed primarily for church leaders, this page offers research and a number of articles and related resources also applicable to individuals and families.

Q&As

- focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a
  Browse our Q&As for advice and encouragement.
  - Anxiety
  - Bipolar Disorder
  - Depression
  - Fear
  - PTSD
  - Schizophrenia
  - Trauma

Focus on the Family Counseling Consultation Line

If you’re struggling and need someone to talk to, Focus on the Family offers a free phone counseling consultation with a licensed counselor. Call 1-855-771-HELP (4357), Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM (MT). Our staff may need to call you back, but they’d love to speak with you. You can also search our directory for a licensed Christian counselor in your area [https://ccn.thedirectorywidget.com].
Focus on the Family Pastoral Care Line
  • As part of our Thriving Pastor outreach, we invite clergy to call and speak with a chaplain Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM (MT), at 844/4-PASTOR (472-7867).

Depression Outreach
971/231-4131
depressionoutreach.com
  • This organization offers seminars and a variety of resources related to depression.

Fresh Hope
3434 North 204th Street
Elkhorn, NE  68022
402/932-3089
freshhope.us
  • Fresh Hope is a Christian association of support groups across the United States for those who have a mental health diagnosis and for their loved ones.

Mental Health Grace Alliance
201 Old Hewitt Drive, Suite D
Waco, TX  76712
254/235-0616
mentalhealthgracealliance.org
  • This group provides recovery programs, support groups, training, and collaborative partnerships to help positively impact mental health care.

National Alliance on Mental Illness
3803 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA  22203
800/950-6264
nami.org
  • NAMI offers research, advocacy, and support groups for those affected by mental illness.

Referrals to secular organizations dealing with specialized areas of knowledge shouldn’t be read as an indication that their stances necessarily align with Focus on the Family’s perspective in all areas.