Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course

***Health, Healing, and Whole Person Health***

Case Studies

**Case study #1**

You serve in a Christian faith community and are visiting Joe, a 75-year-old who has

metastatic lung cancer. Joe is a widower and has been a member of the faith community where

you serve for 40 years. He has been active in small groups and leadership roles. While you’re

visiting, his daughter, Rachel, and his son-in-law arrive. Rachel is wearing a hijab and after

you introduce yourself as Joe’s FCN, she freely tells you that she left the Christian church at

age 25 and now practices Islam.

As you continue visiting with Joe and his family, Joe says, *“ I just don’t understand why I have*

*lung cancer…I never smoked, I never worked with toxic chemicals…it’s so baffling to me.”*

Rachels says: *“Dad, sometimes Allah causes us to suffer to remind us of Him, so that we*

*remember in the midst of all of our activities what truly is important and why we are here*

*on earth.”*

Joe becomes angry and says, “*Rachel, that’s not what Christians believe, and I don’t want to*

*hear that Muslim propaganda.”*

**How do you handle this situation?**

**Case study #2**

You make a visit to Don Wanderhope’s home to see him and his 10 year old daughter Carol. Carol has been very sick and you are visiting them following a recent doctor’s visit in which they received some important test results. Don has not been back to church since his wife died several years ago and is raising Carol as a single parent.

Carol is in her room sleeping when you arrive, and after Don invites you in and you share some small talk it is obvious that Don is avoiding certain topics. Finally, you ask how Carol is doing and he bursts into tears. After a moment he regains himself and then he explains that Carol has just been diagnosed with Leukemia and has to begin extensive treatments and that she will need to be hospitalized during these treatments. The treatments will not be easy.

He looks to you, his Faith Community Nurse and asks the questions “*Why does Carol have to suffer like this? How could a good God allow this?*”

**How do you handle this situation?**

**Case study #3**

You receive a call from a frantic mother, in tears Betty informs you that her adult daughter is in the emergency room and just had a heart attack. She asks you to come to the emergency room to be with the family. You know that the daughter, Jill is a mother of two young girls and is in her early 30’s and understand how unusual this situation is.

When you arrive, the family is there in the waiting room looking very worried. As you arrive the family asks you to say a prayer with them. Before you can begin the surgeon comes out followed by the chaplain. The surgeon explains they have been working on her for an hour, using several techniques manually keeping the heart pumping and they are going to try one more thing to get the heart to work on its own.

The chaplain looks grim and the family introduce you as their spiritual faith nurse. They turn to you and ask you to please pray, suddenly Jill’s sister blurts out in the middle of your prayer saying, “*Pray that she is made whole and that God will make her live!”*

**How do you handle this situation?**