

The E-Kit Video Seminar: Engage the Military in Your Midst

Seminar Notes



Video 1 – Why?

“I fear they do not know us. I fear they do not comprehend the full weight of the burden or the price we pay when we return from battle.”

– Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff

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Video 2 – What?

Teacher Jeff Struecker shares what is needed to minister to the military.

START WHERE YOU ARE

*Watch and listen for these points in **all** of the videos*

USE WHAT YOU HAVE

DO WHAT YOU CAN

“Military members ... long to be accepted, appreciated & understood”

START WHERE YOU ARE

Become aware

Take time

Establish relationships

TAKE FIVE (Group Discussion)

What connection do you have with the military?

What prompted you to participate in this seminar?

“We all need relationships, care, support and education.”

Need help to learn how to share your faith?

Go to www.crumilitary.org/e-kit

“Three-fold nature of the human being:
the relationship between body, soul and spirit.

“We need to **use what we have:**
our relationship with the Savior.”

Luke 7 — The Roman Centurion

Gabe Garriga’s story

Esther — Xerxes’ queen, Esther

Luke 6 — Loaves and Fishes

What do you have to bring?

Start where you are

Do what you can

Use what you have

encourage
engage
enlist
equip
educate

Faith in Jesus Christ is the one thing the Body of Christ brings that no governmental or private organization can offer.

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TAKE FIVE (Group Discussion)

How has faith made a difference in your life?

End of Video 2 — What?

VIDEO 3 – Cause Facts and figures reveal causes of challenges facing our military.

These statistics can be found in the video transcripts on the website.

VIDEOS 4, 5, 6 – HOW?

The three following videos, hosted by Jeff Presnal, bring home questions and the answers. Each segment contains a montage of questions from people like you, then interviews of military people: Active duty, retired, veterans, wives, wounded warriors and parents of warriors, a wrap-up by Jeff Presnal., and of course a “Take Five” break to interact with what you have heard.

VIDEO 4 – HOW? Part One How to find military people and connect with them.

Jeff Presnal’s story

Man-on-the-Street montage: “Can You Relate?”

Living Room Discussion —

Listen for ways others connected to these military people.

Watch how those without military experience made a difference.

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Video 4 – How? Part One, continued

Jeff’s wrap-up – “The military around you”

Military installations

National Guard and Reserve

Veterans

Homeless veterans

Other suggestions and ideas are in the Library on our website. Many are listed in an attachment to your notes.

Pray for God to reveal opportunities to serve the military around you.

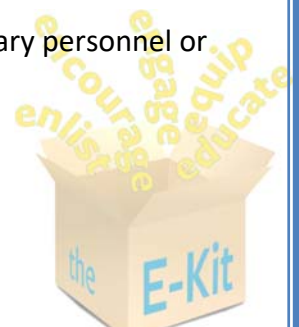
TAKE FIVE (Group Discussion)

What questions did you have coming into this seminar?

What fears or concerns do you have about a ministry to the military in your area?

Brainstorm on some places or events in your community where you can meet military personnel or veterans and their families.

End of Video 4 — How? Part One



TAKE A BREAK – 10 Minutes

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VIDEO 5 – HOW? Part Two

How to relate to military people.

Man-on-the-Street montage: “Got Questions?”

What are your questions?

Living Room Discussion –

DID YOU KNOW?

You have a lot in common with the military community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Service members and their families face unique challenges.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are added challenges for National Guard and Reserve members.

DID YOU KNOW?

The entire family is affected by military service.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is hope for those who suffer from Combat Trauma and PTSD.



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Video 5 – How? *Part Two*, continued

DID YOU KNOW?

There are things you need to know when talking to military members.

DID YOU KNOW? Faith makes an eternal difference in the lives of those in the military community.

Jeff's wrap-up –

Be a Learner

Be Adaptable

Be a Listener

Just Show Up

Related information can be found on the website (crumilitary.org/e-kit)

TAKE FIVE (Group Discussion)

What experiences have you had where a veteran reacted unexpectedly to something you said or did?

Why do you think just “showing up” is so important to a veteran?

What does it mean to really listen? And to listen without judgment?



End of Video 5 — How? *Part Two*

VIDEO 6 — HOW? Part Three

How others serve the military around them.

Man-on-the-Street montage: “Got Questions?”

Living Room Discussion —

Note the actions which were helpful.

Note the actions which were hurtful.

Must you have military experience to help?

Jeff’s wrap-up — What can I do?

“What are you already doing as a servant of Christ?”

“How is your local church already uniquely serving the community?”

Three things you can start doing now:

PRAYER

SPECIAL EVENTS

SMALL GROUPS

Articles on what others are doing and guides for leading small groups can be found at www.crumilitary.org/e-kit.



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TAKE FIVE (Group Discussion)

What are the ministries your church is known for?

How might you use them in serving the military in your area?

What practical things can you do for the servicemen and women you already know?

End of Video 6 — How? *Part Three*

VIDEO 7 – A Conversation with the Clarks and Presnals –

Scott and Karen Clark of Phoenix and Jeff and Sandra Presnal of Houston discuss how they helped launch ministries to the military in the church and community.

Listen for the role of prayer in the process.

What ideas do their stories spark in your heart?



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VIDEO 8 – Call to Action

What will you do to use what you have?

What are three things you are going to put into action?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is God asking you to do right now?

Remember:

Start where you are,

use what you have,

and do what you can in the power of the Holy Spirit,

leaving the results to God.



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Suggestions for Ministry to the Military

The following items are not exhaustive, but are for cloud-seeding in your brain-storming sessions.

1. Develop a team of like-minded people in your church or group and begin praying together.
2. Identify the veterans or actively serving military people in your church. Interview them. What are their needs? What would they recommend you offer as a church?
3. Research all military connections in your community:
 - a) Are you near a base, reserve center, National Guard armory? Is there a chaplain there you can connect with?
 - b) For Reserves and National Guard, do the units meet in or near your community for the monthly training commitments? Meet with the commanders to see how you might provide food, refreshments or...? Do the Reservists or Guardsmen need child care during the training weekends?
 - c) Are any of the units currently deployed? Could you provide "compassion care" services to the families, coordinated through the FRG (Family Readiness Group)? What else might you be able to offer?
 - d) Are any of the units coming home (redeploying)? How can you serve in the reintegration ceremony? Bring refreshments? Recruit local people to line the streets?
 - e) Has anyone in your community lost a military member? Find out how you can participate in honoring the serviceman or woman and their family. What else could you do for the family?
 - f) Is there a VA Hospital nearby? Contact the chaplain or support services to learn how you can volunteer there. Connect with the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) in your area to see if you can help provide rides to the VA Hospital, especially if it is outside the area.
 - g) Contact the Vet Center, VA services or any other veterans groups in the area. It may be more effective if you can go as a group or representing a group than as an individual.
 - h) Is there a Gospel Mission in your community? 30% of those they serve are likely to be veterans.
 - i) Is there a jail or prison nearby? Contact the facility's chaplain and see if there is a veteran population there.



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Suggestions for Ministry to the Military, continued.

- j) Contact the local police chaplain. They may be encountering veterans in their work. Those with PTSD or TBI bring uniquely critical factors to police situations. How can you support them?
3. Consider how your church is already serving the community.
- a. What unique ministries do you offer. Personally, what skills, talents, gifts, influence do you uniquely have.
 - b. Whenever possible, multiple churches in an area can work together to provide comprehensive ministry opportunities.
 - c. Do you have ministries such as: counseling, small group, addiction recovery, divorce recovery, single parent, marriage, children and youth services, legal services, homeless outreach, food pantry, widow support, grief ministry? Keep listing the many possibilities.
 - d. How do you think these ministries, services, outreaches can be used to minister uniquely to the military?
 - e. Google “Partners in Care” and “National Guard” and see if there is a program in your area, or if you can start one.
4. Send us your ideas and suggestions!



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