

Week Seven
Morph Me

MY NETWORK



INTRODUCTION

In Weeks One and Two you considered people and needs in the world around you. Most of us, when we first consider needs, see them from one angle. We see the struggling marriage, but we miss the abusive past fueling the relational hardship. Or we see the financial struggle, but we miss the addiction influencing the person's stewardship. We might call the first need the *presenting* problem. Underneath the presenting problem, there may be a host of other needs. Most of life's challenges are not one-dimensional.

This week, you will be asked to thoughtfully consider the initial needs you identified in the Morph Me exercises from Weeks One and Two. Here you will be asked to take that initial assessment to the next level by considering those situations through the lens of holistic serving. What other needs (physical or spiritual) might be related to the presenting needs? In truth, you may or may not know, so you'll want to be careful about drawing hard conclusions. Considering what may be under the surface not only inspires greater understanding, but also sets you up for a greater ability to serve in a way to truly make a difference.

FIRST STAGE HOLISTIC NEEDS

In this First Stage, consider a sample scenario and then consider the real-life situations you identified in the Morph Me exercises from Weeks One and Two (pages 29-30 and 52-59).

Scenario 1: A childhood friend is in the midst of an extremely difficult marriage. The situation is fairly complicated, and it appears to be hardening. He or she is deeply in debt and barely talking. You recall years ago when this friend's parents went through a divorce, and you know bits and pieces about the abusive stepfather who took the place of your friend's real dad. You also suspect your friend may be masking pain by escaping to addictive behaviors. It troubles you to see history repeating itself, but you care very much for this friend and would like to do something to help.

What physical needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

What spiritual needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

How might the person's physical and spiritual needs be related?

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Looking back at your responses to the Morph Me exercises from Weeks One and Two (pages 29-30 and 52-59), write your own real-life scenarios as you experience them in the world around you. Then answer the questions below to assess holistic needs.

Scenario 2:

What physical needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

What spiritual needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

How might the person's physical and spiritual needs be related?

Scenario 3:

What physical needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

What spiritual needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

How might the person's physical and spiritual needs be related?

Scenario 4:

What physical needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

What spiritual needs do you see in this scenario? What questions can you ask to gain greater understanding?

How might the person's physical and spiritual needs be related?

SECOND STAGE MY LIMITATIONS

This Second Stage is designed to help you recognize areas of your own limitations in meeting the holistic needs of those around you. For each of the scenarios above, you are asked to distinguish between: 1) needs that you are *able* to meet on your own, and 2) needs that you are *unable* to meet given your current limitations of time, resources, giftedness, etc.

Scenario 1:

▶ What needs are you likely *able* to meet on your own?

▶ What needs are you *unable* to meet on your own?

Scenario 2:

▶ What needs are you likely *able* to meet on your own?

▶ What needs are you *unable* to meet on your own?

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Scenario 3:

▶ What needs are you likely *able* to meet on your own?

▶ What needs are you *unable* to meet on your own?

Scenario 4:

▶ What needs are you likely *able* to meet on your own?

▶ What needs are you *unable* to meet on your own?

THIRD STAGE MY NETWORK

This Third Stage is designed to help you consider how you might actively engage your network in the larger body of Christ to meet the holistic needs in the world around you. What resources are available through those you know, your church, or other helpful next steps?

Who do you know in the body of Christ who you may be able to partner with in meeting the needs you have identified? What is their gifting or experience that makes you consider involving them?

	Person(s)	Gifting	Experience
Scenario 1			
Scenario 2			
Scenario 3			
Scenario 4			

What resources or ministries are available through your local church or other organizations that you could partner with in meeting the needs you identified? If helpful, click through your church's website to familiarize yourself with various offerings.

	Ministries and Opportunities
Scenario 1	
Scenario 2	
Scenario 3	
Scenario 4	

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