



Dennis Apple

**Bio:**

Dennis Apple, Denny's dad is a pastor of Congregational Care at the Church of The Resurrection in Leawood, KS (Methodist) . Dennis and his wife Buelah are bereaved parents, losing their 18-year-old son, Denny, suddenly in 1991 to complications due to Mono. Since the death of their son, Dennis and Buelah have led support groups and counseled hundreds of bereaved couples. Their son, Andrew, lives in Alaska with his wife, Amber. Dennis is author of two books, "**Life After the Death of My Son...what I'm learning**" and a novel, "**Runaway Griever.**" Their story was featured on National Public Radio Story Corp.

**Workshops:**

**Dealing with Grief Bullies**

Grief Bullies seem to be everywhere. They are the people in our lives who wish we would, "buck up and get over it." They may be friends, co-workers, family members, clergy, and even well-intentioned counselors. This workshop will point out some of the tactics used by grief bullies. Also, information will be given on ways in which a bereaved parent can push back and protect their own grief journey. Adequate time will be given to share ideas and suggestions as we seek to support and encourage one another. Bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings are welcome.

**Struggling to Reclaim My Faith**

When Dennis discovered his eighteen-year old son, Denny, had died suddenly during the night on February 6, 1991, he screamed, "Oh God, this isn't supposed to happen to me." For many years Dennis served as pastor and prayed every day for his family. He lived under the assumption he was divinely protected from disasters experienced by others. After the shock of losing his precious son, Denny, to "Mono," he struggled many years, trying to find faith once again. This workshop will focus on some of the ways the loss of a child affects a bereaved parent's faith. Also, Dennis will share lessons he learned as a clergyman, struggling to find his way back. Anyone, regardless of faith, belief, or spiritual practice is invited to also share their journey as we seek to learn from and support one another. Bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings are welcome.