Basic Disaster Debriefing

Following a local, regional or national disaster, LCMS Disaster Response uses the following 10 basic questions to stimulate healthy reflection and discussion among disaster survivors. These simple questions also may prove helpful when debriefing responders, congregations, schools or the community. It is generally beneficial not to debrief survivors and responders together in order to allow survivors ample opportunity to fully express their experience.

1. What did you experience during the disaster (or the response)?
2. How were you personally impacted by the disaster?
3. What sustained you during the disaster (or the response)?
4. What is sustaining you now?
5. What role does your faith have in the midst of the disaster?
6. What were your thoughts at the time about the presence of God?
7. What are your thoughts now about the presence of God?
8. How have you shared your own material and spiritual resources since the disaster? (Sharing helps survivors move from being victims to being victors.)
9. Where are gaps in the delivery of relief and recovery services?
10. What do you need right now?