



# Doing Church Differently

## RAF CHAPLAINCY

Part 1:  
Ministry in Unexpected Places:  
The Call to Chaplaincy and Serving Others

You can watch Part One Video on our [YouTube Channel Here](#)

### OVERVIEW

Jonathan Stewart, a Baptist minister who transitioned from local church ministry to serving service personnel and their families. He shares the unique, immersive role of RAF chaplains in providing pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and confidential support in both everyday life and high-pressure environments.

### GOING DEEPER:

#### **Being a Light in a Secular or Challenging Environment:** Matthew 5:14-16

- Chaplains serve people of all faiths and backgrounds. How can we share God's love in environments where faith may not be the norm?
- What does it mean to "let your light shine" in workplaces, schools, or communities where Christianity is not the dominant influence?
- How can we be a source of hope and encouragement in difficult environments?

#### **Walking Alongside Others in Their Struggles:** 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

- The role of an RAF chaplain includes offering pastoral care and welfare support. How does this passage relate to chaplaincy and other forms of ministry?
- How can we be sources of comfort for those around us, whether in church, work, or our everyday interactions?
- Have you experienced a time when someone walked alongside you during a struggle? How did that impact you?

#### **The Challenge and Joy of Incarnational Ministry:** Philippians 2:5-7

- Military chaplains live alongside service members, sharing their experiences. How does this reflect Jesus' model of ministry?
- How can we engage in "incarnational ministry"—fully immersing ourselves in the lives of those we serve?
- What challenges and blessings come with this kind of ministry?

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,, thank You for calling us to serve in different places and in different ways. Open our hearts to understand how we can be a light in the communities where You have placed us. Guide us as we explore what it means to be present for others, even in challenging environments. Amen.

### THE CALL TO SERVE IN DIFFERENT SPACES

Isaiah 6:8: *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"*

- How does this passage reflect the willingness required for ministry in unexpected places, such as military chaplaincy?
- In what ways does God call us to serve outside the traditional church setting?
- Have you ever felt called to step out of your comfort zone to serve others?

## DISCERNING GOD'S CALL FOR OUR OWN LIVES

Proverbs 3:5-6: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

- Jonathan took time to discern his call to military chaplaincy. How can we patiently and prayerfully discern where God is leading us?
- What fears or uncertainties might hold us back from stepping into a new calling?
- How can we support and encourage one another in discovering and following God's will?

## APPLICATION: LIVING OUT OUR FAITH IN ANY ENVIRONMENT

**Identify Your Mission Field:** Where has God placed you to serve—your workplace, community, school, or friendships?

**Offer a Listening Ear:** Find an opportunity to intentionally support someone in need this week.

**Pray for Those in Chaplaincy & Missionary Roles:** Remember those who serve in non-traditional ministry roles, offering encouragement where possible.

## FIVE QUESTIONS FOR THE CHURCH

1. How can we take ministry beyond the church walls and into everyday communities?
2. How can we serve and support people of all faiths and none while staying true to our own beliefs?
3. What does it mean to truly share life with the people we minister to?
4. How can we support those called to pioneering, chaplaincy, and non-traditional ministry?
5. How do we discern and prepare for God's unique calling in our own lives?

## CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You for calling people to serve in all walks of life, from church leadership to chaplaincy, workplaces, and beyond. Help us to be attentive to Your call and to serve with humility, compassion, and courage. May we be lights in the world, bringing hope to those around us. Amen.

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