

# Phenomenological Examination of Spiritual and Religious Coping Styles of Mothers Grieving a Child with Cancer

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The abstract should succinctly summarize the main findings and explicitly state the implications of these findings. Consider rephrasing to highlight how this research contributes to practical counseling strategies.

Expand on the introduction by providing more context about why understanding spiritual and religious coping mechanisms in the specified cultural context is crucial. Reference recent studies to back this need.

Please provide more details about the semi-structured interviews. What were the main questions asked? This would offer clarity on how data were directed and gathered.

Clarify the point of data saturation in your methodology section. Mention at which interview no new information was noticed, which strengthens the reliability of the study findings.

Mention any measures taken to ensure the accuracy of the transcription from the audio recordings to the textual data, as transcription accuracy is pivotal in qualitative research.

Elaborate on how the findings were derived from Colaizzi's method during data analysis. Include examples of how participant statements were coded into themes.

Offer examples of how the major themes were consolidated from the codes. This adds transparency to the analytical process. Contextualize your findings within existing literature. How do your results compare with existing studies on grief coping strategies?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Introduce a theoretical framework at the beginning to guide the study. This could be a theory related to grief, coping, or psychological resilience which would anchor the study's methodology and analysis.

Consider adding a comparative element to the study, perhaps by including non-religious coping styles as a comparison to highlight the unique aspects of spiritual and religious coping.

Discuss potential confounding variables that could affect the generalizability of the findings, such as varying degrees of religiosity among participants or differences in the time since the child's death.

Strengthen the discussion on the practical implications of the findings for counselors and therapists. What specific strategies can practitioners take from this study?

Suggest the need for a longitudinal study to follow how coping strategies evolve over time, which could provide deeper insights into the persistence and efficacy of spiritual and religious coping mechanisms.

To enhance the robustness of the study, consider incorporating quantitative elements, such as a scale to measure the intensity of religious coping used, which could provide data for statistical analysis and broader generalizations.

Expand the ethical considerations section by discussing how participants were handled sensitively given the delicate nature of the subject matter, especially during interviews.

Provide a more detailed discussion of the limitations. How might these limitations affect the interpretations of the findings? What caution should be taken when generalizing these results?

Offer more concrete suggestions for future research that builds on your findings. This could include studies in different cultural settings or using mixed methodologies.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.