



Christian Voices for Life

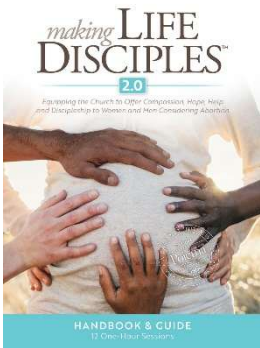
Wednesday Word

Education

Prayer

Action

Help for Churches to Support Single Pregnant Women [print version]



Education: Abortion advocates often accuse pro-lifers of caring only for the baby and not the mother. Nothing could be further from the truth. Pregnancy centers and other organizations and churches do offer help to pregnant women, to empower them to choose life for their children, offering assistance throughout the pregnancy and beyond. 54% of women having abortions identify themselves as Christian, and 40% of post-abortive women were attending church regularly at the time of their abortion. Many Christian women need help to avoid surrendering to the temptation or coercion to abort, as well as in need of healing afterwards.

The Christian command to “love your neighbor” includes loving women who are pregnant in difficult circumstances, and single moms. Loving both mom and child means helping them both to get through the pregnancy with the best possible outcome. Love for women who have aborted means helping her to find forgiveness and healing in Christ. But many women feel that their church will judge them rather than help them, and do not ask for help. [Posting a church pledge](#) to help can effectively inform the congregation of their intentions to help and support women in unexpected pregnancies, and single moms. But just how can churches help?

Care Net, one of the largest networks of pregnancy help centers, offers [Making Life Disciples](#) has a program to train and prepare churches to offer help to pregnant women. There is a DVD and handbook, and while designed for eight 2-3 hour sessions, it can be adjusted for shorter time periods. Other organizations help churches to help women. [Embrace Grace](#) provides a curriculum and training for church support groups for pregnant women, single moms, and fathers. [Surrendering the Secret](#), from Life Impact Network, is a post-abortion program with videos and handbooks. Training for leaders is provided by a video series or online sessions. [Standing with You](#) offers a church kit with educational and other materials. [Rachel's Vineyard](#) offers post-abortion healing weekends.



Prayer: Dear Father God, please bless the efforts of all who seek to help pregnant women who are being tempted or coerced to abort, and to continue to support single mothers. Help women receive the support they need, through Christian pregnancy centers and/or Christian churches, and come to know your love for them through the love shown to them by your people. Help every Christian church to respond to the call to reach out in some way to women in their community who are afraid, alone, and in need of loving and non-judgmental support.



Action: Ask at your church if there is a program to help pregnant mothers (and fathers) to resist the temptation of abortion. Find out about your local pregnancy center and talk to them about how your church can partner with them. While pregnancy centers are set up for specialized services such as options counseling and free ultrasounds, churches are more equipped to provide a community of support and long-term discipleship.