

# Quick Reference Guide

## FOR SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY



### Important Stats

We want everyone to be educated on the reality of abortion in America and be equipped to respond in love. Here's a quick guide to help you understand the issue and prepare to lead your churches toward an even stronger, compassionate, pro-life expression.



### Abortion in the Church

Source: CareNet

1 in 3

More than 1 in 3 women were attending a church regularly when they had their first abortion

50% of those women agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy

50%

52%

52% of women who attend a Christian church say no one at their church knows about their abortion

65% of women believe that church members judge expectant single women

65%

50%

50% of women don't feel that sermons on God's forgiveness apply to their abortions

### WHY DO WOMEN CHOOSE ABORTION?

Sources: Heartbeat International | Guttmacher

73% feel economic stress



64% feel pressured by others



48% site relational concerns and don't want to be a single parent



### Next Steps for the Church



The Church needs to be talking about matters of life, sex, unplanned pregnancy and healing from abortion in a deeply compassionate way. There is tremendous shame and isolation for those who face unplanned pregnancy— especially in the church. We need to create ways of opening honest conversations where those who need the community of Christ know they will be loved, healed, supported and restored.



Often women feel as though they're a victim of their circumstances (i.e. poverty or an unstable relationship) and feel like abortion is their only choice. Likewise, 79% of women are not sufficiently informed about resources that would help them if they chose life. This is where the church can powerfully make a difference.

# What you can do

## Partner

with your local pregnancy center. Locate your nearest clinic at [www.heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory](http://www.heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory)

## Pray

for women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy to feel the love of Christ through your church.

## Preach

on the Key Ideas and Important Verses below. Make sure your community knows that your church is welcoming, judgment-free, supportive place for people in an unplanned pregnancy.



## KEY IDEAS AND IMPORTANT VERSES

### Imago Dei

Because all humans are made in the image of God, we all have equal value. Therefore, all human life is cherished by our creator and must be equally cared for. This is totally counter cultural today because our world constantly creates categories of value and places people within those frameworks. But Christ demolishes it all.

**Genesis 1:27-28 | Galatians 3:28**

### Pro-life is not political

Often the conversation of abortion is framed as a political one. But by doing so, we can forget that this is deeply personal. People are afraid, feel alone, and feel as though they cannot succeed in life if they choose life. The church has the responsibility to care for our vulnerable neighbors where they are and offer real support to practical needs. There's more to do than voting, we're invited to come alongside one another.

**John 8:1-11 Jesus refuses to use this woman to make a political argument | Micah 6:8**

### Compassion

Many individuals in your congregation have experienced an abortion or know someone who has. Be very aware of your words and statements about the unborn life and remember to talk about the intrinsic value of the moms and dads involved too. Many don't believe God forgives abortion so tenderly mention the grace available for those who have experienced abortion.

**Luke 15: God reveals his heart for the lost-not one of judgment but one of a running Father. He is ready to embrace his beloved; willing to do whatever it takes to go after and find 'the one which was lost'**

### Pro-life is Pro-People

Pregnancy resource centers holistically care for women's health: spiritual, emotional, and physical all at no cost. To be pro-life means we care about ALL life, we care about moms, dads, toddlers and teens. We care about the circumstances of families before a child is born and offer support after birth to ensure that moms and dads know they are not alone.

**Matthew 11:28-30 | John 10:10**

