

MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES NEXT STEPS

(Now that you're through, what should you do?!)

How to not lose momentum and make the most of your training as a Life Disciple:

STEP I - Start with the basics and maximize your investment:

1. It is essential that your church community and those that visit your church's website know that there are Life Disciples standing ready in your church to help women and men who need it.
 - Ask your pastor to have a commissioning service so that people know you have been equipped and are available to offer compassion, hope, and help to men and women facing unplanned pregnancies. [Here](#) are two options for doing this.
 - Make sure to establish a point person for your team, and that counselors available at the end of Sunday services know who that person is, as well as who the other designated, available, and accessible members on your team are.
 - Have something available on your church's resource center table.
 - Make sure there is regular mention of your ministry from the pulpit and in the bulletin.
 - Make sure there is a clearly labeled listing on your church's website that points individuals to where they can get help. Consider hosting your own Facebook page.
 - Offer "pregnancy decision coaching" on your church's website. Link it to your Life Disciples team or your local pregnancy center. [Here](#) are a variety of images and messaging for your website designed to connect the abortion-vulnerable with trained individuals in your church that can offer compassion, help, and hope.
 - Put some brochures in the men's and women's restrooms that communicate to any considering abortion that confidential help and support are available.
 - o [Before You Decide](#)
 - o [Before She Decides](#)
 - o [Here](#) are some more excellent options from Focus on the Family
2. As you move forward to serve your church and others, always remember your own ongoing and daily need for the compassion, hope, and help you will be offering. The gospel refreshes, motivates, and gives us joy to serve with grace and patience rather than shame, guilt, manipulation, and frustration.
3. Be determined and ready to share your life with others. The goal of *Making Life Disciples* is not a program to implement but a way to prepare your church with lives to imitate (disciplers like you). You are now equipped and trained. Is there a man or woman in your congregation you could come alongside to mentor and disciple? Is there someone at your local Pregnancy Center that needs mentoring or discipleship?
4. Pray that God will bring people into your life and church that need Life Disciples.
5. Make sure you have maximized your investment. *Making Life Disciples* is, first, a way to equip a select group of first-responders to offer compassion, hope, and help to women and men facing unplanned and/or unwanted pregnancies and, second, a way to raise the life-affirming IQ of the whole church—including senior-highers—related to abortion. Have you used it for both of these purposes?

Here are two practical alternatives and/or enhancements related to this second purpose:

- **Prolife 101**—we took the first session, "The Sanctity of Human Life," from *Making Life Disciples* and broke it into six online sessions. Each session comes via email with a 5-15-minute video segment

making LIFE DISCIPLES™

and a handout—one a week for six weeks. This free online course is a great way to promote the pro-life message in your sphere of influence with intelligence, credibility, love, and effectiveness. What's more, it takes less than 2 hours of time over six weeks! In fact, after six weeks, if desired, you'll have the content for an excellent discussion-oriented series for a senior high, young adult, or another adult class. Also, Prolife 101 can easily be shared on Facebook.

- For senior-highers and young adults, we also recommend [Stephanie Gray: "Abortion: From Controversy to Civility."](#) This hour-long cultural conversation from "talks at Google" is extremely respectful, thorough, and compelling.

6. Introduce *Making Life Disciples* to other churches in your area.

7. Encourage, encourage, encourage! Lead with grace, not shame. Do all you can to help the culture of your church be one of compassion, help, and hope – a welcoming community where people are strengthened, genuineness is encouraged, and Christianity is a matter of the heart.

STEP II - Learn from your local pregnancy center. Strengthen the connection between their vital mission work and the family strengthening and discipleship efforts of your church:

1. Get to know the vital mission work of your local pregnancy center. Ask for a tour of their facility. Find out what they need and how you might help and/or make your church aware of ways to help.
2. Volunteer time at your local pregnancy center. In addition to keeping your *MLD* skills sharp, this is a great way to solidify the connection between your church and pregnancy center. This will also create natural bridges to invite center clients to your church.
3. "Success is when preparation meets opportunity." This being the case, gather a list of resources in your community. Again, life decisions need life support. Consider needs that those facing an unplanned pregnancy might have: transportation, housing, counseling, job placement, food, finances, etc. Consult your local pregnancy center on this as well so you don't have to reinvent the wheel.

STEP III - Think holistically and – in sync with God's timing – expand ministry focus:

1. Make sure the discipleship you are inviting men and women into is holistic. Watch and make others aware of Care Net's Pro-Abundant Life approach. You can access a [two-minute video on that here](#).
2. Consider implementing a program like Embrace Grace for young women facing unplanned pregnancies (see our *Life Affirming Partners* below).
3. Consider starting or strengthening an existing ministry to single moms.
4. Remember there are older, married women, and/or those who are already mothers who often feel overwhelmed or lost in an unplanned pregnancy. Consider providing strategic childcare or starting a "mother's day out."
5. Consider implementing or strengthening an existing fatherhood class or program.
6. Consider implementing or strengthening an existing parenting class or program.
7. Consider implementing or strengthening an existing marriage or premarital class or program.
8. Consider implementing or strengthening an existing post-abortive class (see our *Life Affirming Partners* below).
9. Learn about adoption and foster care and make your church aware of ways they can get involved.
10. Consider implementing or strengthening an existing sex and relationships course.
11. ***This is important! Regarding the suggestions above – whenever possible – promote the classes or events as being sponsored by the church's *Making Life Disciples* ministry. This will highlight the availability of *Making Life Disciples* services.

CARE NET'S LIFE-AFFIRMING PARTNERS

[Embrace Grace](#)

“Embrace Grace is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed for the purpose of providing emotional, practical and spiritual support for single, young women who find themselves in an unintended pregnancy. The primary goal of Embrace Grace is to empower churches across the nation to be a safe and non-judging place for the girls to run to when they find out they are pregnant, instead of the last place they are welcomed because of shame and guilt.”

[Forgiven and Set Free](#) is a world-renowned Bible study by Linda Cochran – Executive Director of Hopeline Women's Center in Danbury, Connecticut, Linda is associated with the term PACE (Post-Abortion Counseling and Education) – that addresses post-abortion trauma and recovery.

[Churches for Life](#)

The mission of Churches for Life is to nourish churches as gospel-driven champions of life. Their distinctive focus is to start Life Teams in churches who work with the church leadership to equip their congregation to honor and dignify all life from conception to natural death. Churches for Life trains Life Teams and then provides support and encouragement through ongoing coaching. Their three passions are:

1) The gospel of Jesus Christ 2) the local church and 3) championing life.

[The Vox Project](#)

The Vox Project wants to inspire and equip pastors and ministry leaders to lead the way in speaking the truth about abortion with grace and compassion. Through prayer and fasting, [compelling videos](#) from prominent Christian leaders, a film, and other resources, Vox seeks to get churches engaged in the life issue.

[Voiceless – the movie](#)

Voiceless is a film that was in theaters in Fall 2016. It encourages people to stand up for what they know is right, particularly around taking God's truths into society to address social issues. It addresses the spirit of retreat that has developed within the church, especially as it pertains to engaging the culture around abortion.