A CARE NET INITIATIVE

making LIFE DISCIPLES™

Equipping the Church to offer compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to women and men considering abortion.

LEADER’S GUIDE

A SIX PART DVD CHURCH CURRICULUM

Leader's Guide

A CARE NET INITIATIVE: MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES

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MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES

Leader's Guide

A CARE NET INITIATIVE: MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES

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Dear Making Life Disciples Leader:

I want to welcome you to Making Life Disciples!

Making Life Disciples is a Care Net initiative whose purpose is to equip you as a member of the body of Christ to offer compassion, hope, help, and ongoing discipleship to anyone considering abortion.

By God’s grace, over the past four decades, our nation’s pregnancy centers have saved the lives of millions of precious unborn children and have helped countless women, men, and couples build strong families and come to relationships with Jesus Christ.

But God has really put it on my heart that we are at a crossroads in our culture today. The number of abortions in the United States has held steady at more than one million per year for many years. And abortion providers continue to hurt women, men, and babies.

The more I prayed and thought about this crisis, the more God showed me that the epicenter of the solution must be placed squarely in Christ’s Church.

Based on all of the data we have, it is safe to say that of the one million plus abortions performed per year, a conservative estimate is that at least 20% of them (200,000) are accessed by practicing Christians. At an average cost of $500 per abortion, 200,000 abortions by Christians give 100 million dollars every year to abortion providers. Research shows that the majority of women who have abortions identify as Christians, even if marginally so, and 4 in 10 women who have had abortions attend church regularly. I have become convicted that abortion is the log in our eye that we must remove so that we can remove the speck in our culture’s eye.

With Making Life Disciples, you and your church will be part of the solution.

This curriculum will equip men and women in your church to offer compassion, hope, and help to anyone considering abortion. This has been Care Net’s specialty for more than 40 years, and we will show you how to do it. Moreover, this curriculum will not just equip you to minister to women and men at the point of the pregnancy decision, but it will also equip you to prepare them for the journey of life. You will not just be trained to deal with a series of transactions but, through ongoing discipleship, will also be trained to transform the lives of the women and men you to whom you minister.

In John 10:10, Jesus says, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” This is the work that Christ’s Church is made for and called to do. You and your church can work to ensure that there are no more abortions in your church and your community as you become both a beacon of hope for those in need and a maker of disciples, transforming your community through God’s love. Amen!

Thank you, and may God bless you daily as you serve Him faithfully.

Roland C. Warren
President and CEO, Care Net
WELCOME TO MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES!

Everything you need to train members of your congregation to become Life Disciples is included in your *Making Life Disciples (MLD)* Leader’s Kit:

- *Making Life Disciples* DVD curriculum (1 set of 4 discs)
- *Before You Decide* Magazine for women (20 copies)
- *Before She Decides* brochure for men (25 copies)
- *Making Life Disciples* Leader’s Guide (1 copy)

The first step is reading the *Preparing Your Church to Make Life Disciples* printout (found on Disc 1: Life-Affirming Resources of your *Making Life Disciples* disc set) and following the recommended guidelines for engaging your church’s leadership and assembling a prayer team.

After you have engaged your church’s leadership and have their full support for going forward with an MLD ministry, you can find a place and time on the church calendar for an introductory meeting about the MLD training. The purpose of the meeting will be to introduce the ministry (including dates and times of your next training), answer questions, and inspire both men and women to become Life Disciples. At this meeting, you should have a sign-up sheet available for people who want to register for the MLD training.

CONDUCTING AN “INTRODUCTORY MEETING”

**Time allotted:** 2 hours

**Purpose:** To introduce the ministry (including dates and times of the next MLD training), answer questions, and inspire men and women to become Life Disciples.

**Tools:** Leader Session video on Disc 2

**Leader’s Procedures (Prior to Meeting):**

1. Watch and review all video sessions (Discs 2-4). This step will help you be able to answer questions and give accurate information to those interested in the training. It is best that you also look through the handouts and resources on Disc 1, as well as the entire MLD Leader’s Guide, paying special attention to Session 1 to become familiar with the training format being used throughout all sessions.

2. Set up a date, time, and place for the first training session, and be prepared to share this information with everyone in attendance.

   **NOTE:** The first training session should take place as soon as possible after the introductory meeting so interest does not wane.

3. Create and bring registration forms to gather contact information from those interested in participating in the upcoming MLD training. Be sure to ask for name, phone number, and email address.
Leader’s Procedures (During the Meeting):

1. Welcome those who have come, introduce yourself and give them your contact information in case they want to contact you later.

2. Ideally, the video trailer will have been shown during a Sunday morning service to introduce this new ministry but, if not, begin the meeting by showing the 5-minute MLD video trailer found on Disc 2 in your MLD Leader’s Kit.

3. Give attendees the dates and times of the upcoming training and tell them that there will be an opportunity to sign up for the training at the end of the meeting.

4. Tell attendees the cost of the training. Include the cost of the Life Disciple’s Handbook, a 3-ring binder (with clear sleeve for handbook cover), and consider including refreshments and incidentals.

   NOTE: Since people tend to value what they have a financial investment in more, it is not recommended that the church pay for Participants’ materials. However, your church could consider a scholarship opportunity for those with legitimate financial concerns.

5. Introduce members of the prayer team who have committed to pray for this new and important ministry.

6. Share a personal story or testimony about how and why you have accepted the call to be the MLD ministry leader.

7. Ask all attendees to briefly introduce themselves and to share a reason they are interested in the ministry.

   NOTE: If anyone at the meeting tells you or the group that they have had an abortion, do not spend time discussing this experience in the group. Instead, offer to meet with that person privately at a separate time, and follow the recommendations in Session 1 of the MLD Leader’s Guide.

8. Distribute copies of the MLD information brochure to all attendees. You can make copies from Disc 1, which can be found in your MLD Leader’s Kit and give an overview of the training content.

9. Depending on the groundwork your church has already done with sermons, articles, or bulletin inserts, share your church leadership’s commitment to the importance of starting an MLD ministry within your church.

10. Distribute copies of the Christianity Today article on the research results from the LifeWay national survey found on Disc 1 in your MLD Leader’s Kit (How Women Who Aborted Feel About the Local Church handout). This will further support the need for your church leadership’s decision to begin an MLD ministry.

11. Next, show the 34-minute Leader Session on Disc 2, and be prepared to answer questions.
12. Pass out registration forms and ask attendees to return them to you before they leave.
13. Tell attendees that if they have questions that weren’t answered during this meeting, they are welcome to call you.
14. Remember that the strength and impact of this ministry is in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in the number of people who step up for this first round of training.
15. Tell those who are interested in attending training to become Life Disciples to bring a Bible or Bible app to each meeting.
16. Close your meeting with prayer.

**MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES TRAINING**

**Leader’s Procedures (Before First Training Session):**

1. Order one *Life Disciple’s Handbook* for each registered Participant at: store.care-net.org/for-churches/
   Consider buying a few extras for “walk-ins” who did not previously register.
2. Order the same number of 3-ring binders either online or at a local office supply store. Binders should have a clear cover sleeve where you will insert the MLD Leader’s Guide and *Life Disciple’s Handbook* covers.
3. Purchase lined, 3-hole punched paper for Participants to use for note taking during training.

   **NOTE:** Handouts (found on Disc 1) are designed for printing front-to-back. For your convenience, the entire Life Disciple’s Handbook is printed in teal in your Leader’s Guide.

**RECOMMENDED TRAINING SCHEDULE**

- **Week 1:** Welcome & Introduction (Session 1.1 in your MLD Leader’s Guide)
- **Week 2:** Session 1.2 (Complete Session 1)
- **Week 3:** Session 2, Part A
- **Week 4:** Session 2, Part B
- **Week 5:** Session 3
- **Week 6:** Session 4
- **Week 7:** Session 5
- **Week 8:** Session 6

   **NOTE:** Training sessions should last not less than 2 and not more than 3 hours each.
MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES TRAINING GROUP FORMATS

Every adult in your church, young and old, should be given the opportunity to be trained as a Life Disciple under the umbrella of your church’s MLD ministry. Training groups can be formed in the following ways:

1. Open enrollment for anyone at the church
2. Closed enrollment for members of a church small group (for example, a Sunday school class or Wednesday night Bible study group)

Open enrollment creates a training atmosphere with the most diversity in age and backgrounds. This is an exciting opportunity to bring people together and draw on many perspectives as they work together to learn the material. This format, over time, will create many Life Disciples in a single congregation who are equipped to minister Christ’s love to women and men considering abortion in the church, in their communities, in the workplace, or in their own families.

The closed enrollment format allows people who have already formed a close-knit community to explore together how God might use their community to minister to women and men facing difficult pregnancy decision. Once a closed group has completed the training, it is feasible that they would “adopt” a person in need, walking her, him, or them as a couple through the pregnancy decision and beyond. United in ministry, this group can be transformational in the lives of women or men who previously thought abortion was the only solution.

CERTIFICATE & COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Once the training is complete, Life Disciples can be honored with a certificate signifying their successful completion of the MLD curriculum. A commissioning ceremony can be conducted during a Sunday morning service, providing a public display of your church’s commitment to offer compassion, hope, and help to women and men considering abortion. This ceremony also alerts members of your congregation to the fact that there are people within the church trained to minister confidentially and compassionately to the needs of people making pregnancy decisions.

TIPS FOR MAKING LIFE DISCIPLES MINISTRY LEADERS

Leader Session (Disc 2)

1. Show this video during the MLD Introductory Meeting.

NOTE: The animated map in the video is a true representation of abortion centers, pregnancy centers, and Calvary Chapel locations in the Los Angeles area only. The representation of the entire United States is an artistic rendering.
Welcome & Introduction:
1. Be prepared to hand out *Life Disciple’s Handbooks*, binders, and a number of blank pages for note taking.
2. Tell Participants that, to facilitate learning, they should read and review each lesson prior to coming to each training session.
3. Share with Participants your expectations regarding attendance, showing up on time, length of meetings, length of the entire training, etc.
4. Tell Participants how women and men facing a difficult pregnancy decision can contact and get help from your church’s MLD ministry.
5. All handouts (found on Disc 1) should be copied and 3-hole punched for easy insertion into a Participant’s *Life Disciple’s Handbook*.
6. Open and close all sessions with prayer.

Session 1: The Sanctity of Human Life (Disc 2)
1. Look up and record your state laws regarding permissible limits on gestational age and abortion access at http://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/overview-abortion-laws/.

Session 2: Pregnancy—Facing the Unknown (Disc 2)
1. Because Session 2 contains a great deal of information that will be new for most Participants, this session has been broken up into Part A & Part B to allow for ample discussion time.

Session 3: Connection, Communication, Compassion (Disc 3)
1. This session includes a segment on making referrals for services that a woman or man might need which are not offered through the MLD ministry. In preparation, review the Suggested Referrals handout located in the Session 3 folder on Disc 1. The handout contains information on abortion recovery, domestic violence, medical emergencies, and more. Combine this list with the local resources available through your church to create a church referral list for Life Disciples. Consider handing this list out during this session or after each Participant successfully completes the training.

Session 4: Pregnancy & Abortion Education (Disc 3)
1. Plan to download the *BYD: Live* tablet app, and bring your tablet to Session 4 to enhance the learning experience. (Refer to page 201 for *BYD:Live* information.)
2. While the Abortion Education videos within this session do not contain any graphic images, some do include a physician explaining the procedure using the actual instruments used in performing abortions. Some may find this disturbing.
Caution Participants about this content prior to showing the video, and give them permission to step out if they need to take a break.

3. Throughout the training, particularly during this session, pay particular attention to Participants that have shared with you about a past abortion. These Participants might be particularly vulnerable or sensitive during parts of the training, especially abortion education.

**Session 5: Effects of Abortion (Disc 4)**

1. The final video on Abortion Education is in Session 5 and is on later term abortion, and while it does not contain any graphic images, it also includes a physician explaining the procedure using the actual instruments used in performing abortions. Some may find this disturbing. Give Participants permission to step out if they need to take a break.

**Session 6: Life-Affirming Alternatives (Disc 4)**

1. Prepare special prizes for the group that earns the highest score on the quiz on life-affirming alternatives. Since this is the final training session, you might consider a way to congratulate or reward every Participant that completed the training.
HANDOUTS & RESOURCES LIST
LEADER’S TOOLS FOUND ON DISC 1

HANDOUTS (PDF FILES)

Session 1: The Sanctity of Human Life
  • Biblical Values (Section 1.9)
Session 2: Pregnancy—Facing the Unknown
  • Life Circumstances (Section 2.6)
  • ‘Dear Little Thing’ Cosmopolitan Magazine’s Open Letter (Section 2.6)
  • Relying on God (Section 2.14)
Session 3: Connections, Communication, Compassion
  • Feeling Words (Section 3.5)
  • Hard Cases (Section 3.9)
  • Suggested Referrals (Section 3.10)
Session 4: Pregnancy & Abortion Education - No handouts
Session 5: Effects of Abortion - No handouts
Session 6: Life-Affirming Alternatives
  • Adoption Terminology (Section 6.3)
  • Helpful Phrases, Questions, and Comments (Section 6.4)

LIFE-AFFIRMING RESOURCES (PDF FILES)

  • 10 Things Not To Do When A Woman Tells You She Wants An Abortion
  • Creating a Making Life Disciples Page on Your Church’s Website
  • Life-Affirming Articles and Ministries Links
  • LifeWay Research - How Women Who Aborted Feel About The Local Church
  • Making Life Disciples General Information Brochure
  • Preparing Your Church to Make Life Disciples
THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

SESSION DESCRIPTION:
During this first session, the Participants in the training will learn:

1. The history of legalized abortion in America.
2. The spiritual consequences of abortion.
3. Overcoming concerns about their qualifications to be a Life Disciple.
4. How to administer permission-based care.
5. Guidelines that help Life Disciples maintain their commitment to confidentiality.
6. The four essential traits of a Life Disciple.
7. The biblical values every Life Disciple needs.

PRE-SESSION PREPARATION:

1. Purchase or make name tags. Have them and a marker set out on a table in the training room before the beginning of the first session.
2. Be prepared to share your contact information (phone and email) with the Participants. If you have a co-leader, be prepared to share the co-leader’s contact information as well.
3. Prepare a DVD player, speakers, or other audio-visual aids needed to watch the Making Life Disciples (MLD) training DVDs.
4. For Section 1.9, print the Biblical Values handout found on the CD-ROM, Disc 1.
   Make enough copies for every Participant, and make them 3-hole-punched. Be sure to have writing utensils available.
5. Be prepared to pray at the start and end of the session, focusing on the sanctity of human life and what God’s Word says about life.
SECTION 1.1:
Welcome & Introductions
*Recommended: Conduct this section as your week 1 session*

**LEADER’S GOAL:**
To welcome Participants to the training and begin the process of forming a close and supportive group for the remainder of the training.

**LEADER’S PROCEDURES:**
1. As the Participants enter the room, welcome and greet them with your name and, if appropriate, a handshake.
2. Invite the Participants to make a name tag and help themselves to snacks and beverages, if available.
3. When ready, ask the Participants to be seated. Welcome them and begin the training with prayer. Introduce yourself and, if you have one, your co-leader, and give the Participants your contact information.
4. Encourage the Participants to contact you any time something unexpected arises that will affect their ability to attend any of the remaining training sessions.
5. Enthusiastically tell the Participants you are looking forward to them being in attendance, on time, and eager to learn.
6. Ask the Participants to introduce themselves and their primary motivation for attending the training to become a Life Disciple. (You may ask for other details. For example: other involvement in the church, whether married, children, etc.)
7. Inform the Participants of the training schedule, the location of bathrooms, and other important logistics.
8. Explain that the training includes a variety of topics and activities. Give the Participants an overview of the six sessions and the content you will be covering together.
9. Tell the Participants to read Session 1 content in their *Life Disciple’s Handbook* in preparation for the first training session.

SECTION 1.2:
Show the video for Session 1 of *Making Life Disciples—The Sanctity of Human Life.* This is found on Disc 2. (Length: 38 minutes)

Tell the Participants that they can take notes in the margins of the *Life Disciple’s Handbook* or on a 3-hole-punched paper that you have provided.