

# PRO-LIFE 101

## SESSION 3: QUALIFICATION CONCERNS

TAKEN FROM

# *making* LIFE DISCIPLES™

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

## QUALIFICATION CONCERNS

Write down concerns you have about serving as a Life Disciple:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

As you move into this ministry, it is natural to have some concerns about whether or not you will be an effective Life Disciple. You are in good company. Consider that biblical heroes like Moses, David, and Paul acknowledged their weaknesses. These men became great leaders not because they relied solely upon their own strength but because they relied upon God.

Remember, if God called you to this ministry, He will equip you to serve. It also helps to consider that the individual women and men that God brings into your life are “divine appointments,” and you can trust that God is the perfect matchmaker! He knows who will be the most influential Life Disciple in that person’s life. It’s also refreshing to think of this as a “double divine appointment,” given that God also knows which woman or man facing a pregnancy decision will most impact and bless your life.

Having feelings of inadequacy is normal. Below are some common concerns that are expressed by new Life Disciples, including how you can rely on God’s strength to address those concerns.

### **“I’m not as educated or well-spoken as others. I don’t think I can be a Life Disciple.”**

God does not look at a person’s outward appearance; He looks at the heart. (See 1 Samuel 16:7). God will work through you as long as you allow Him to use you as His vessel in the lives of the women or men you serve.

### **“I’m afraid I’ll say the wrong thing.”**

No one is perfect. This training will prepare you for this life-affirming ministry outreach, and you will become more confident as you work with more and more women and men facing pregnancy decisions. It is possible that they will hear more through your tone of voice and inflection than through the exact words you choose. They will also see your caring approach. Even when you make a mistake, the Lord is faithful. If you ever think you have made a mistake, talk with your *Making Life Disciples* ministry leader. Remember that the women and men you are serving are not

looking for perfection. They can be patient and forgiving of mistakes when they see how much you care and that you are in their corner.

**“I’ve never considered an abortion, had one, or had a partner who considered or had one. I don’t know that I can relate to these women and men.”**

Even if you have never personally faced a difficult pregnancy decision or considered abortion, you have undoubtedly experienced a time when you faced difficult circumstances. Maybe you’ve been afraid of making the wrong choice when facing a major decision. Perhaps you or your wife has had a miscarriage, or you’ve lost a loved one to disease or an accident, or you’ve overcome another huge challenge. You can draw on these kinds of experiences to help you empathize with women and men facing pregnancy decisions. Each one of us has gone through trying times or made mistakes that we regret. Draw on these experiences to relate to the people God puts in your life as you serve.

**“What if I or my partner has had an abortion? I’m concerned it might affect my ability to be an effective Life Disciple.”**

You can still be an effective Life Disciple, but you must first go through your own healing process. If you have had an abortion, be sure to share your story with your *Making Life Disciples* ministry leader. Even if you have been through a healing process, it is important that the *Making Life Disciples* ministry leader knows about your abortion. It can be kept confidential, but it should never be kept a secret, because it can bring more harm and shame and interfere with true healing. **Your ministry leader deserves the opportunity to discuss healing with you before you are given the opportunity to meet with women and men facing pregnancy decisions.** The *Making Life Disciples* ministry leader has your well-being in mind, as well as the well-being of those you will be serving. Since the conversations that take place with women and men considering abortion can easily trigger negative emotions in a person who has experienced an abortion, it is always best to explore those emotions in a private conversation with the *Making Life Disciples* ministry leader rather than during a meeting with a woman or man you are trying to serve.

**“What if the woman or man facing a pregnancy decision goes through with the abortion anyway? I will feel like a failure.”**

Did you tell the woman or man facing a pregnancy decision the truth? Did you listen to the Holy Spirit? Did you educate them about their options? As long as you did everything you could as a Life Disciple to help them make an informed, fact-based decision within the context of godly love and compassion, you must let go of the outcome. You are only responsible for the part of the process leading up to a pregnancy decision. The woman or man making a pregnancy decision is responsible

for the outcome. The Holy Spirit is powerful and active and able to convict. Pray for the couple, and trust them to God. Remember, in God's economy, **faithfulness is success.**

**“I’ve never led someone to Christ. I don’t know if I’ll do it right.”**

Talk to the woman or man facing a pregnancy decision from your heart. They will see passion for Him in your eyes and hear it in the way you speak about Jesus. Find a way to share the salvation invitation that is comfortable for you, but be sure to follow any guidelines or policies set by your church's leadership.

Some people have a natural gift for evangelism. Others must make a concerted, and sometimes awkward, effort to do so. There are many tools you can use. Talk with your *Making Life Disciples* ministry leader if you need help preparing to share the Gospel. (More about evangelism in Session 2.)

**“How do I share principles of right and wrong with someone who has no belief in absolute truth?”**

Just like the law of gravity cannot be changed, the truths of Scripture are permanent. As long as you share biblical truth, God will do the convicting. God can defend Himself. Once again, you have to let go of the outcome, including whether or not the woman or man facing a pregnancy decision accepts the truth.

#### NOTES:

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

**NOTES:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ENDNOTES: SESSION 1

1. United States Abortion Policy in the International Context—Americans United for Life. (2012, August 1). Retrieved from <http://www.aul.org/united-states-abortion-policy-in-the-international-context/>
2. Ibid.
3. Jones, R. K., & Kooistra, K. (2011), Abortion Incidence and Access to Services In the United States, 2008. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 43, 41–50. doi: 10.1363/4304111.
4. Jones, R. K., & Jerman, J. (2014), Abortion Incidence and Service Availability In the United States, 2011. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 46(1), 3-14. Retrieved from <https://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/psrh.46e0414.pdf>
5. Abortion Statistics: United States Data & Trends—National Right to Life Committee. (2015, February). Retrieved from <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS01AbortionintheUS.pdf>
6. Mohr, J. C. (1978). *Abortion in America: The origins and evolution of national policy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
7. Farrell, C. (2008). *The abortion debate*. Edina, MN: ABDO Pub.
8. Abbott, K. (2012, November 27). Madame Restell: The Abortioneer of Fifth Avenue. *Smithsonian Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/madame-restell-the-abortioneer-of-fifth-avenue-145109198/?no-ist>
9. Gray, C. (2013). Madame Restell's Other Profession. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/13/realestate/madame-restells-other-profession.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/13/realestate/madame-restells-other-profession.html?_r=1)
10. Manning, K. (2013, June 24). How the media sensationalises abortion. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/jun/24/how-media-sensationalises-abortion>
11. The Sexual Revolution. (n.d.). Boundless U.S. History. Retrieved from <https://www.boundless.com/u-s-history/textbooks/boundless-u-s-history-textbook/the-sixties-29/expanding-the-civil-rights-movement-1464/the-sexual-revolution-1226-9275/>
12. Forsythe, C. D. (2013). *Abuse of discretion: The inside story of Roe v. Wade*. New York: Encounter Books.
13. Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973, January 22).
14. Napikoski, L. (2016, March 31). Norma McCorvey: The Woman Who Was Jane Roe. *About Education*. Retrieved from [http://womenshistory.about.com/od/abortionus/a/norma\\_mccorvey.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/abortionus/a/norma_mccorvey.htm)
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973, January 22).
19. Planned Parenthood v. Casey, 505 U.S. 833 (1992)
20. Guttmacher Institute. (2016, May). Induced Abortion in the United States | Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>
21. De Bord, J., Burke, W., Dudzinski, D. M. (2013). Confidentiality. Retrieved from <https://depts.washington.edu/bioethx/topics/confiden.html>.
22. Core Competencies. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://coachfederation.org/credential/landing.cfm?ItemNumber=2206>
23. Allen, L., Manning, L., Francis, T., & Gentry, W. (2011). The Coach's View: Best Practices for Successful Coaching Engagements. Retrieved from <http://insights.ccl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TheCoachsView.pdf>
24. Crabb, L. J. (1992). *The Marriage Builder: A Blueprint for Couples and Counselors*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
25. Empathy (n.d.). *Merriam-Webster* online. Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/empathy>
26. Sympathy. (n.d.). *Merriam-Webster* online. Retrieved from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sympathy>

Visit Care Net online at [care-net.org](http://care-net.org)  
Making Life Disciples Resources at <https://www.care-net.org/implementing-making-life-disciples>

Cover design by Brian Gage, Coldwater Media, copyright © by Care Net.  
Designed by G. Nathan Smith, Martin Stanley and Audra Jon Hoover.  
General Editor: Cynthia Hopkins, VP Center Services & Client Care, Care Net  
Editor: Mary Chapman, Director of Church Outreach & Engagement, Care Net

ISBN: 978-0-9972285-0-2

Copyright © 2016 Care Net, formerly the Christian Action Council Education and Ministry Fund, Inc.  
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, resold, or redistributed by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or recording, without the prior written consent of Care Net.

44180 Riverside Parkway, Suite 200  
Lansdowne, VA 20176  
(703) 554-8734 Office  
(703) 554-8735 Fax  
[info@care-net.org](mailto:info@care-net.org)

Best practice advice provided in this curriculum is intended solely for educational purposes. The presenters and authors are not engaged in rendering legal, financial, or counseling advice or service.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® and NIV® are registered trademarks of Biblica, Inc.