First Conversation Response Guide

Welcoming Someone with Compassion and Clarity

Use this guide when someone affected by abortion reaches out for support. Your goal is to welcome them, listen without pressure, explain available support, and help them choose an appropriate next step.

Before You Begin

- Know the support your church offers.
- Know your referral options.
- Review your church's privacy procedures.
- Keep the conversation private.
- Do not ask for more details than the person chooses to share.

A Simple Conversation Guide

1. Welcome Them
"Thank you for reaching out. I'm glad you did. You are welcome here, and you do not have to share more than you want to."

2. Listen Without Pressure
"What would be most helpful for you right now?"

Let them share at their own pace. If they do not want to share details, do not press them.
"That is okay. We can take one step at a time."

3. Acknowledge Their Trust
"Thank you for trusting me. You are not alone."

Avoid saying you understand exactly how they feel. Instead, say: "I want to listen and help you find support."

4. Explain Privacy and Support
"Let me explain the support available and how we handle privacy. I will not share what you tell me without your permission, except where our church's policies or applicable requirements require us to involve someone."

You may offer:

- Prayer, if requested.
- A pastoral conversation.
- Information about Broken from Silence resources.
- Referral to additional support.
- Do not promise help or confidentiality your church cannot provide.

5. Offer Choices
"There is no pressure to decide everything today. Would you like to consider one of these options, or would you prefer information for now?"

Possible next steps:

- Receive a resource or confidential-help card.
- Request prayer.
- Schedule a follow-up conversation.
- Speak with a pastor.
- Explore discipleship resources.
- Connect with additional support.
- Take time and decide later.

If they are not ready, say:

"That is completely okay. You can reach out whenever you are ready."

6. Agree on a Next Step
"Would you like me to send you the information we discussed?"
"Would you like me to check in with you next week?"
"Would you like help connecting with additional support?"

Confirm what they would like you to do, how they prefer to be contacted, and whether they want follow-up.

When to Seek Additional Help
If the person needs more than your church can provide, say:

"I want to make sure you have the right kind of help. May I connect you with someone who can provide additional support?"

Follow your church's referral process and involve pastoral leadership when needed.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give me a humble and compassionate heart. Help me listen well, honor this person's trust, and speak with wisdom and grace. Guide us to the support and next step that will best serve them. Amen.