

RESTORING WHOLENESS

Bridge Builders

Leadership Conversation Guide

Preparing Your Church to Respond with Compassion and Clarity

RESTORING WHOLENESS

Broken From Silence

BFS

Preparing Your Church for a Compassionate Initial Response

The Church Starter Kit helps pastors and trusted ministry leaders move from awareness to a prepared response when someone affected by abortion asks for support. You do not need to launch a complete ministry at once. Begin by clarifying what your church can offer, preparing the people who will receive inquiries, and making the next step clear.

Use this guide with a small team of trusted church leaders.



Before the Conversation

- Review the Church Awareness Kit materials and the Church Starter Kit Quick-Start Guide.
- Invite leaders who may be involved in receiving inquiries, pastoral care, communications, or referrals.
- Set aside enough time for prayer, discussion, and decision-making.
- Have the Church Readiness Checklist, Designated Care Contact Planning Sheet, and privacy worksheet available for follow-up.
- Remind participants that no one should be asked to disclose a personal abortion experience during this meeting.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us to shepherd Your people with truth and compassion. Give us humility to listen, wisdom to prepare well, and grace to care for those who may be carrying hidden burdens. Guide our conversation, unite our hearts, and help us take a faithful next step. Amen

Part 1: Establish a Shared Pastoral Approach

Discuss

- Why do we believe it is important for our church to be prepared to respond to those affected by abortion?
- What do we want someone affected by abortion to know about our church?
- How can we communicate biblical convictions without shaming, pressuring, or making assumptions?
- What does compassionate care look like in our church context?
- How will we respect privacy while still offering a clear invitation to seek support?

Write your shared approach:

Our church desires to respond to those affected by abortion with biblical truth, compassionate care, respect for privacy, and a clear invitation to seek support.

Our pastoral approach will be:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Part 2: Clarify What Your Church Can Offer

Discuss

- What forms of support can our church currently offer?
- What resources do we already have that may be helpful?
- What needs are beyond our current preparation or capacity?
- What referral connections may be appropriate?
- What training, consultation, or additional preparation do we need before offering ongoing support?



Possible support options:

Consider which options your church can responsibly offer now:

- A welcoming first conversation.
- Prayer, when requested.
- A pastoral conversation.
- Biblical discipleship resources.
- Information about Broken from Silence resources.
- A connection with a trained facilitator, if available.
- Referral to professional counseling or other appropriate support.
- Practical assistance through an established church or community resource.

Your initial support plan:

At this time, our church can offer:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

We will connect people with additional support when:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Do not list a form of support unless your church is prepared to provide it or has an appropriate referral connection.

Part 3: Define Initial Responsibities

Discuss

- Who will receive initial inquiries?
- Who will serve as a backup contact?
- Who will provide pastoral oversight?
- Who will maintain referral information?
- Who will approve communications before they are shared?
- Who will ensure privacy, safeguarding, and applicable requirements are understood?
- What preparation does each person need before beginning?



Record Initial Responsibilites

Responsibility	Name/Role	Preparation Needed
Receive initial inquiries	_____	_____
Backup contact	_____	_____
Provide pastoral oversight	_____	_____
Maintain referral resources	_____	_____
Approve communications	_____	_____
Review privacy and safeguarding practices	_____	_____

Use the Designated Care Contact Planning Sheet to record more detailed contact information, response expectations, and training needs.



Part 4:

Agree On Your Next Faithful Step

You do not need to complete every preparation step today. Choose one realistic action your leadership team can take next.

Discuss

- What is the most important preparation need right now?
- What can we accomplish in the next 30 days?
- Who will take responsibility for that step?
- When will we review our progress?
- Do we need consultation, training, or additional guidance from Broken from Silence?

Record your next step:

Our faithful next step: _____
Person responsible: _____
Target date: _____
Support or preparation needed: _____
Leadership review date: _____

Close in prayer

After the conversation:

Complete the Church Readiness Checklist, prepare your designated care contact, and visit Church Readiness to review your preparedness and explore consultation, partnership, or training.