



Broken From Silence

RESTORING WHOLENESS

B uilding Bridges



REDEEMING THE TIME

After Conference Small Group Discussion Guide

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Building Bridges

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The Building Bridges Conference invited us to consider how biblical truth, grace, and practical care can shape our response to abortion and its impact on individuals, families, and churches. Through teaching, personal testimony, and ministry examples, speakers encouraged us to recognize hidden pain, offer hope in Christ, and serve with compassion.

This discussion guide provides an opportunity to revisit those messages and consider their meaning for our own lives and communities. Each presentation summary is followed by three questions designed to encourage thoughtful conversation and application.

As you discuss, listen with humility and respect each person's privacy. No one is expected to share a personal experience. Make room for honest reflection, different perspectives, and the possibility that someone in the group may be carrying an unspoken loss.

For a single gathering, select the presentations most relevant to your group. For a discussion series, use one or two presentations per meeting.

Michael Hagberg — Conference Emcee



HOME AWAY
CALVARY CHAPEL CHINO HILLS

Michael Hagberg connected the presentations to the theme “Redeeming the Time,” encouraging believers to live wisely and offer hope through Christ. Sharing his family’s experiences with pregnancy decisions and miscarriage, he emphasized compassion, gracious conversations, and churches where people affected by abortion or loss can safely seek support. Through speaker introductions and panel questions, he encouraged practical service and personally inviting younger adults into ministry.

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RESTORING WHOLENESS

Pastor Ron Rose

THE FOUNDATION FOR REDEMPTION

Truth & Grace



Presentation Summary

Pastor Ron Rose began by emphasizing that truth must be grounded in God's Word rather than feelings, personal opinions, or changing cultural beliefs. Drawing from several biblical passages, he taught that every person is made in God's image and that humanity's fallen nature leads people to resist truth and avoid the light. He described the conflict surrounding abortion as fundamentally spiritual, arguing that information, signs, or stronger arguments alone cannot bring the transformation people need. He called Christians to speak truth with grace, love their enemies, pray for those who oppose them, and share the gospel. Rather than allowing anger or frustration to shape their witness, believers should help others see Jesus through their words and conduct. His message connected conviction about the value of human life with concern for the spiritual needs of everyone involved.

Pastor Ron also addressed the inner life of those serving in ministry. He urged believers to depend on prayer, Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and Christ rather than striving in their own strength. He warned against burnout, competition, and unhealthy motives, reminding attendees that ministry belongs to the Lord. For those carrying guilt or wounds, he pointed to forgiveness and freedom in Christ. He closed by challenging participants to act on what they heard: seek daily opportunities to serve, share the gospel intentionally, and extend hope to hurting people.

Discussion Questions

1. What challenged you most about Pastor Ron's call to hold biblical truth and grace together? How could that change the way you approach a difficult conversation?
2. How can we recognize when our service is being driven by frustration, competition, or personal effort rather than prayer and dependence on Christ?
3. What is one specific way you could put his message into practice through prayer, gospel conversation, or compassionate service this week?



REDEEMING THE SILENT HOURS
Chemical Abortion's Silent Toll



Presentation Summary

Sylvia Blakely addressed the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain associated with abortion, with particular attention to self-managed chemical abortion. Drawing on her nursing background, ministry experience, and personal story, she described situations in which women may experience medical complications, isolation, and distress without adequate support. She urged churches to recognize that people affected by abortion may already be sitting in their congregations while carrying experiences they have never felt safe discussing.

A central concern in Sylvia's presentation was the silence created by shame, fear, and uncertainty about whom to trust. She encouraged Christians to become attentive to moments when hidden grief may surface, but not to treat those moments as permission to press for a disclosure. Instead, she emphasized building relationships, responding with grace, and offering practical assistance as needs become known. Sylvia's own healing journey illustrated her conviction that forgiveness, freedom, and renewed purpose are available through Christ. She called believers to connect hurting women and men with trustworthy, Christ-centered recovery resources and to meet immediate needs as the hands and feet of Jesus. Her closing message was that the gospel should shape both the hope Christians offer and the compassionate care through which they offer it.

Discussion Questions

1. How did Sylvia's description of hidden pain within the church affect the way you think about the people around you?
2. What would it look like to build trust and offer support without making assumptions or pressing someone to share a private experience?
3. What could our group or church do to make compassionate care and Christ-centered recovery resources easier to find?



REDEEMING THE DAYS OF THE UNBORN Truth ABOUT Late-Term Abortion



Presentation Summary

Tara Shaver grounded her presentation in the belief that every human being bears God's image and therefore has inherent dignity, regardless of age, health, ability, circumstances, or whether the child is wanted. In discussing later-term abortion, she distinguished medical assessments of viability from the question of when human life has value. She also described her organization's work investigating abortion providers, informing women, conducting sidewalk outreach, and advocating for unborn children in New Mexico.

Tara gave particular attention to families receiving serious prenatal diagnoses. She urged Christians to distinguish a life-limiting condition from a life without value and to accompany families through difficult decisions, pregnancy, birth, palliative care, and grief. Her message called for more than stating a position: churches should be prepared to remain present with families facing fear, uncertainty, and loss. She outlined practical forms of support, including financial assistance, childcare, housing, transportation, counseling, mentoring, medical referrals, and post-abortion healing. Tara acknowledged that believers cannot prevent every abortion, but emphasized their responsibility to serve the person in front of them. She challenged churches to combine biblical conviction with lasting relationships that make choosing life more possible and communicate that mothers, fathers, children, and families will not be left alone.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Tara's distinction between a life-limiting condition and a life without value reveal about how we view disability, suffering, and human dignity?
2. What might sustained support look like for a family facing a difficult pregnancy or prenatal diagnosis, beyond an initial expression of concern?
3. Which practical need described in her presentation could our group help meet, and what would a realistic first step involve?



REDEEMING THE TIME FROM AI'S
DECEPTIVE ALLURE
Using AI to Redeem Digital Time



Presentation Summary

In his recorded presentation, Erik Reed encouraged Christians to consider how they should faithfully steward the technological era in which they live. He described artificial intelligence as a powerful tool influencing how people seek information, companionship, counseling, and answers about difficult personal matters. He expressed concern that mainstream systems may reflect secular assumptions, affirm users uncritically, or offer confident guidance that draws people away from trustworthy human counsel.

Erik rejected both uncritical acceptance of AI and complete disengagement from it. Instead, he argued that Christians should use the technology under biblical convictions, appropriate safeguards, and human oversight. He made a clear distinction between assistance a tool can provide and responsibilities it cannot fulfill: AI cannot replace pastors, counselors, relationships, repentance, forgiveness, the gospel, or the work of the Holy Spirit.

He described possible ministry uses such as helping people locate resources, directing initial inquiries toward real human support, assisting with administrative work, and helping leaders prepare for conversations. He recommended beginning with low-risk tasks, evaluating results, protecting sensitive information, and keeping people accountable for decisions. His central challenge was to use technology to save time and extend ministry capacity without outsourcing distinctly human or spiritual care.

Discussion Questions

1. Which opportunities or concerns in Erik's presentation stood out to you, and why?
2. Where should we draw the line between using AI to assist ministry and allowing it to replace relationships, discernment, or spiritual responsibility?
3. If our group used AI for an administrative or other low-risk task, what boundaries would we want concerning accuracy, privacy, and human review?



Lyric Gillett

SURVIVORS AMONG US

Abortion's Hidden Trauma Across Generations



Presentation Summary

Lyric Gillett presented the pro-life cause within the framework of a spiritual battle and Christ's victory. Through Faces of Choice, she seeks to make the experiences of abortion survivors visible in a conversation that can become distant or abstract. She described a cultural "fog" created by softened language, statistics, silence, and shame, and argued that personal encounters can reveal human realities that facts alone may not communicate.

Lyric shared examples of survivors whose experiences involved physical injuries, later discovery of their histories, and questions about rejection, identity, and purpose. She emphasized that these individuals have lives, relationships, families, and testimonies that deserve to be heard. She also highlighted the love and forgiveness toward birth mothers expressed by survivors featured through her organization, connecting their stories with opportunities for healing among people affected by abortion.

Her presentation challenged churches to consider what their silence communicates. She warned that women, men, families, and survivors may interpret silence as evidence that there is no safe place to seek support. Lyric described media campaigns that connect people with survivor testimonies and life-affirming resources, and previewed Life Choice Sunday as a way to equip churches to respond openly to pregnancy needs, abortion trauma, adoption decisions, and grief. She closed by calling people to bring hidden stories into the light and join truth with love.

Discussion Questions

1. How did the emphasis on survivors' lives and personal stories affect your understanding of the people involved in the abortion conversation?
2. What can we learn from the presentation's connection between testimony, forgiveness, and restored identity?
3. What might our church's silence—or the tone of its public messages—communicate to someone carrying a hidden story, and what could we change?

Broken From Silence

 Garry & Susan

CREATING A CULTURE CONDUCTIVE TO HEALING
A Pathway from Guilt to Grace



Presentation Summary

Garry and Susan Swafford introduced *Broken From Silence* as a Christ-centered discipleship ministry helping people affected by abortion move toward forgiveness, healing, restored identity, and purpose. They emphasized that churches must hold truth and grace together: acknowledging sin and loss while offering Christ's mercy without condemnation. Because many people keep these experiences private for years, they called for communities where disclosure is voluntary, confidential, and treated with dignity.

Their personal story illustrated how this kind of care develops. Garry became passionate about protecting unborn children without knowing about Susan's past abortion. His forceful advocacy prompted her to disclose her experience, and later responses of love from fellow believers helped her understand God's love more personally. As other women began sharing their stories, Susan developed a Scripture-based recovery study with pastoral encouragement. Garry described learning to respond with understanding and to make Susan's healing a priority.

The Swaffords outlined a pathway involving safety, honest disclosure without pressure, repentance and faith, receiving forgiveness, allowing grief, renewing identity in Christ, and finding supportive community. They stressed that forgiveness does not instantly end grief and that experiences involving coercion, abandonment, abuse, or other trauma may require additional professional support. Their practical recommendations included permission-based questions, private meeting spaces, discreet registration, closed groups, careful referrals, and testimonies that glorify God without sensationalizing pain.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Garry and Susan's story reveal about the difference between expressing a conviction and caring well for the person hearing it?
2. How does the recognition that forgiveness and grief can coexist challenge expectations about what healing should look like?
3. What changes would help our group or church become more trustworthy in how we listen, protect privacy, and connect people with support?



SEIZING TOMORROW'S PURPOSE
Restored Lives and Faithful Action



Presentation Summary

Stephen Paez began by calling experienced Christians and longtime advocates to remain humble and open to what God might teach them. His testimony traced a movement from childhood faith through destructive choices, violence, legal trouble, and pressuring his girlfriend to have an abortion. He described returning to Christ and experiencing restoration through Christian community and a confidential post-abortion Bible study.

Stephen connected his own restoration with a call to active service. Drawing from Scripture, he urged believers to recognize the dignity of children made in God's image, use their God-given gifts, and live consistently in both public and private. He challenged a form of faith limited to attendance and fellowship without outward service, while acknowledging that meaningful ministry may involve sacrifice and opposition.

He described the work of Proverbs 24:11 Ministries as evangelism-led sidewalk outreach involving nurses, mobile ultrasound support, prayer, and ongoing relationships. His examples emphasized that support continues after a family chooses life through baby showers, practical assistance, and connections with Christian community. Stephen concluded by inviting participants to discern where God was calling them to serve, whether through healing ministries, pregnancy centers, Bible studies, survivor advocacy, or outreach. His closing appeal centered on repentance, renewal, and willingness to say, "Here I am, send me."

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you about the role of Christian community and confidential support in Stephen's restoration?
2. Stephen urged longtime believers to remain teachable. What can keep us from responding to a message we believe we have already heard?
3. Where do your gifts, interests, or experiences connect with the areas of service he described, and what would one concrete step toward involvement look like?



After-Conference Action Steps

Become a Silence Breaker:

Sign up to be a Silence Breaker by emailing BuildingBridges@brokenfromsilence.org. Receive monthly discussion guides and ongoing support to help you engage others thoughtfully and courageously.

Engage in Personal Reflection:

Use the discussion guide to reflect personally on your own journey related to abortion, healing, and restoration, praying for God's guidance to deepen your compassion and understanding.

Lead or Join Small Group Discussions:

Organize or participate in small group gatherings using the discussion guide to foster safe spaces where people can break silence, share stories, and support one another in healing.

Pray Regularly:

Commit to praying for those affected by abortion—mothers, fathers, families—as well as for church leaders and ministries working in this healing space.

Support Local Ministries:

Volunteer or donate to ministries and organizations that provide emotional, spiritual, and physical support to those impacted by abortion.

Advocate for Healing and Life:

Be a voice in your community and church for life-affirming support, healing after abortion, and policies that protect both mothers and unborn children.

Educate Yourself and Others:

Continue learning about the realities of abortion, post-abortion healing, and ways the church can respond effectively and compassionately.

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