Leading Others to
Hope, Healing, and a Life
that Can Flourish in Christ

RESTORING WHOLENESS

BrokenFromSilence.org
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HOMEWARD



Broken From Silence

BFS

RESTORING WHOLENESS

Building Bridges

A Ministry Leadership Activity

Equipping Churches to Move from Barriers to Compassionate Care



RESTORING WHOLENESS

Broken From Silence

Join the Movement

BE A SILENCE BREAKER

Being a silence breaker for the need for healing in the church after abortion involves courageously addressing a sensitive, often hidden issue with compassion and hope.

Contact Us To Learn More!

Bridges of Grace

Discussion Guides for Facilitating Healing Conversations in the Church

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Leadership Reflection Prompts:

Discuss these questions as a church or ministry leadership team:

1. Which barrier is most likely to prevent people from approaching our church or ministry for help?
2. Which barrier may be present in our systems, language, attitudes, or communication—even if unintentionally?
3. What message do people currently receive from our church about forgiveness, healing, and restoration?
4. Do our leaders and volunteers know how to respond when someone shares a painful abortion-related experience?
5. Where might our current ministry process create confusion, delay, or fear?
6. What bridge could help someone move from silence or isolation toward safe support?
7. What training, resources, or referral relationships does our team need?
8. Who should take responsibility for developing this bridge?
9. What is one change we can make in our church communication, leadership training, or ministry process?
10. What would a faithful first step look like within the next 30 days?

Team Action Plan:

The priority barrier we identified:

The bridge we will build:

The team member or ministry area responsible:

Resources or support we need:

Our first step:

Target date for our first step:

RESTORING WHOLENESS

Building Bridges

A Ministry Leadership Activity

Equipping Churches to Move from Barriers to Compassionate Care

Every church and ministry has the opportunity to become a bridge toward hope, healing, and wholeness. People affected by abortion may carry grief, shame, fear, confusion, or isolation, yet many do not know whether it is safe to seek help within the Church. The words we use, the way we respond, and the systems we establish can either create barriers or open pathways to compassionate care.

This activity invites church and ministry leaders to examine how their teams currently respond to hidden pain and identify practical ways to strengthen their ministry culture. Together, you will name barriers that may prevent people from reaching out, consider bridges your church can build, and select one faithful step toward becoming a safer, more prepared, and more welcoming community.

The purpose is not to assign blame or create a perfect ministry model. It is to encourage honest reflection, shared responsibility, and intentional action as your team seeks to reflect the grace, truth, and compassion of Christ.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,

Thank You for calling us to serve Your people with humility, wisdom, and compassion. As we begin this activity, open our eyes to the barriers that may keep people from seeking help, experiencing belonging, or moving toward healing.

Give us honest hearts as we examine our words, attitudes, systems, and responses. Help us listen without judgment, lead without pride, and recognize where our ministries may need to grow. Show us how to build bridges of trust, confidentiality, grace, and practical support. Equip our pastors, leaders, volunteers, and ministry teams to respond with both truth and tenderness. Give us wisdom to know what we can provide, humility to seek additional help when needed, and courage to take faithful action.

May our church become a place where people do not have to remain hidden in shame or isolation, but can encounter the compassion and restoring hope of Jesus Christ.

Guide our conversation and direct our next steps.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Description:

This activity helps church and ministry leaders examine the barriers that may prevent people affected by abortion from seeking help, experiencing belonging, or taking steps toward healing. Leaders and their teams will identify practical bridges their church or ministry can build through compassionate communication, prepared leadership, confidential support, and well-organized care.

As a leadership team:

1. Review each barrier listed below.
2. Discuss how that barrier might appear in your church or ministry.
3. Identify a bridge your team could build in response.
4. Add any barriers or bridges that are specific to your ministry setting.
5. Select one priority area and determine your next faithful step.

A barrier our church or ministry may create or overlook:	A bridge our church or ministry can build
Fear of judgment	Communicate a clear message of grace, compassion, confidentiality, and hope
Lack of trust in church leaders	Develop consistent, trustworthy, and nonjudgmental pastoral responses
Isolation or uncertainty about where to turn	Provide clear pathways to a trained mentor, pastor, support group, or professional counselor
Shame that prevents people from asking for help	Offer gospel-centered teaching about forgiveness, true identity, restoration, and new life in Christ
Lack of awareness among leaders or congregants	Provide education and training for pastors, ministry teams, small-group leaders, and volunteers
Pressure to disclose personal details	Establish a ministry culture that respects privacy and allows individuals to share only what feels safe
Divided or judgmental conversations about abortion	Equip leaders to hold biblical convictions together with humility, compassion, and care for people
Lack of support for people and affected by abortion	Consider appropriate care and resources for men, parents, grandparents, spouses, and other loved ones