

PRAYERS FOR

LIFE

A 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL



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PRAY FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” - Jeremiah 1:5

Reflection

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.” (Luke 1:30-31). Mary was young and betrothed when she received this news from Gabriel. She knew that this pregnancy would present personal and social challenges for herself and her betrothed, Joseph. Yet in this unexpected pregnancy, Mary faithfully accepted God's call, saying, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38).

Many women today with unexpected pregnancies experience similar challenges to Mary. They say: I'm too young; I'm unmarried; I can't do this alone; What will others think? Mary is an example to them of how to entirely trust God and choose the gift of life. The circumstances may be difficult, but God will provide, just as he did for Mary.

When you encounter women in unexpected pregnancies, provide love, care and support to them so they can likewise provide these to their unborn child. Listen to their needs and offer support where you can. Does your church or community offer resources for women in unexpected pregnancies? Share those resources. As Matthew 25:40 teaches, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Prayer

Heavenly Father, may all expectant mothers, especially those considering abortion, be encouraged by Mary's example. May each mother receive love, care and support so they can choose the gift of life. Give us a deep love for these mothers and their unborn babies. Through our words and actions, may they encounter your goodness and mercy. Amen.

PRAY FOR EXPECTANT FATHERS

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!" - Psalm 127:3-5

Reflection

When Joseph discovered that Mary was with child, he did not want to place any shame on her. Instead, he decided to divorce her quietly. However, an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21). Upon waking, Joseph did as God commanded and took Mary as his wife and raised Jesus as his own son.

Many women choose abortion because they do not have the support of the child's father. The father may be the one pressuring her to abort. It is important to acknowledge that men can also be overwhelmed by an unexpected pregnancy. We pray that expectant fathers will find courage in the example of Joseph, who took on the role of husband and father in a difficult situation and at an unexpected time.

Just as we support women choosing life, we need to support the men choosing life as well. Affirm the goodness of life and fatherhood through your example to these men. Help them to view fatherhood in a positive light. Help them realize that they are called and capable. As Genesis 18:19 says, "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

Prayer

Heavenly Father, may all expectant fathers be filled with courage to take on the role of father from Joseph's example. May we be witnesses to the goodness of life and fatherhood and help them see real life examples of how to love and support the mothers of their children. Thank you for our earthly fathers, for we know they offer a taste of the love that you show us, your children. Amen.

PRAY FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS CONSIDERING ADOPTION

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." - Philippians 4:6

Reflection

One of the fears many women choosing adoption face is the fear of judgement and being accused of abandonment by others. However, mothers who choose to make an adoption plan for their child do not abandon their children. Instead, they exemplify the sacrificial love of Christ. They give of their bodies for months to nurture and give life to their child, and they sacrifice a life with their child after birth to protect their child's best interests.

Scripture shows us the sacrifice of adoption through the story of Moses. Pharaoh commanded, "Throw into the Nile every boy that is born, but you may let all the girls live." (Exodus 1:22). "A Hebrew woman conceived and bore a son during this time. When she could no longer hide him, she put her son in a papyrus basket and placed it among the reeds of the Nile River. The boy's sister followed close by. When Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe, she noticed the basket, and she was moved with pity. The boy's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'" (Exodus 2:7). "That woman was the boy's mother. She took him back into her home until the time came to deliver him to Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses, for she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'" (Exodus 2:1-10).

Moses' mother may not have made the adoption plan, but her trust in God was the adoption plan. He provided for Moses and his mother. While mothers today get to create an adoption plan, we can also encourage them that God can help direct their plans.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, may all expectant mothers considering adoption be filled with the strength and grace they need to carry their child and make an adoption plan. May we be supportive of her life-giving decision and be open to speaking your wisdom into her plan. We can all recognize and appreciate the spirit of adoption as your adopted children. Amen.

PRAY FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING LOSS THROUGH ABORTION

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." - Isaiah 41:10

Reflection

In 2020 alone, abortion ended the lives of 620,327 children in the United States.* Hundreds of thousands of parents and family members are suffering from those losses. Many suffer silently and desire healing and forgiveness but don't know where to find it. No matter how far anyone has strayed from God, he offers comfort and mercy. He says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10).

Jesus teaches us just how much God loves us and desires for us to return to Him in the parable of the prodigal son. After squandering his inheritance, the younger son returns to his father to repent of his sins and to seek forgiveness. Before the son could even ask for his father's forgiveness, his father runs to him and embraces him. He says, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." (Luke 15:22-24). So too does God welcome all of his repentant children back to him, no matter how deep the wound.

We too can celebrate God's loving mercy and forgiveness by showing that same mercy and forgiveness to those mourning the loss of a child through abortion. When they turn to you, show Christ's love to them and help them first accept your compassion followed by healing and forgiveness.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, hear the cry of each person who mourns the loss of a child due to abortion. Move in the hearts of the unrepentant. Bring conviction and restore souls for your kingdom, by your grace. We ask that eyes will be opened to understand the truth of the Gospel. Still the restless and hurting hearts with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

*Data from Centers For Disease Control 2020 Surveillance Summaries; November 25, 2022 / 71(10);1-27

DAY 5

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT OR PARTICIPATE IN ABORTION

"For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him." - 2 Chronicles 30:9

Reflection

Genesis tells us of the first account of one person taking the life of another. When the time came to present God with their offerings, Cain brought an offering of his crops, and Abel brought an offering of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel's offering, but not on Cain's offering. Cain became angry. That jealous anger caused him to murder his brother. When God asked Cain where his brother was, Cain replied, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9).

Since that time, indifference towards the sanctity of human life has continued. We, like Cain, can allow the emotions and consequences of sin to take hold of us, and we can fail to recognize the truth. We fail to recognize that all human life, both inside and outside of the womb, is sacred and belongs to God. For some, this has led to a belief that abortion is a compassionate act of health care and that individuals have the ability to choose who lives and who does not.

These individuals are not without hope. God desires to have a relationship with them. He desires for them to turn their hearts back to him completely. 2 Chronicles 30:9 says, "For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him." When we encounter individuals who have fallen from the truth, we can act like our merciful God to them, opening up the pathway for conversation and conversion just as Jesus taught us: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36).

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you are a merciful God who longs to have a relationship with us. Draw close to those who have fallen from your truth. Use us as your instruments to bring others closer to you so they may receive your saving grace and mercy. Amen.

PRAY FOR THOSE IN GOVERNMENT

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." - 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Reflection

According to the Pew Research Center, **almost 90% of the United States Congress claims to pursue Christianity.** Whether they practice their faith or not, the knowledge that individuals around the country are praying for them likely serves as a great blessing and encouragement. Consider writing or emailing your city, state or national representatives today. Share that you are praying for them, their staff and their family.

Pray that local and national leaders would be filled with wisdom and courage.

May our government officials be granted the courage and stamina needed to steward the power of the office they hold for good. Pray that our government leaders will represent their constituents well, courageously upholding biblical values and policies.

Pray for legislation that protects our nation's families and children.

Pray for conviction to rule in the hearts of those acting in a manner that is contrary to God's Word. Pray for godliness to be the central point for policy, and for followers of Christ to recognize that their ambassadorship is to represent Christ's kingdom above all things.

Pray for government leaders and their families.

Oftentimes, a commitment to serve constituents means sacrificing significant amounts of time with family. For leaders who are splitting time between home and their state capital or Washington, D.C., relational stress and public press can take a toll. Pray that government officials and their families would seek Christ's strength each day.

Pray for relationships that leaders have with others.

A leader's success is largely dependent on relationships they build with others. Pray that God would guide conversations and open doors to create new, unforeseen connections. Pray that our nation's leaders would feel the urgency of the Gospel message and be bold in sharing a reason for their hope.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, bless our nation through godly leaders. Help them desire to magnify the name of Jesus and declare that He is Lord over this nation. Help them to always propose and defend legislation that guides and protects mothers, fathers and unborn babies. Amen.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WORK TO DEFEND LIFE

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." - Romans 12:2

Reflection

When Pharaoh first began his rule of Egypt, he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." (Exodus 1:9-10).

Pharaoh said to the Hebrew midwives, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." (Exodus 1:16). The midwives feared God and did not do as Pharaoh said. The Israelites multiplied and grew strong, and God blessed the midwives with families (Exodus 1:22).

Our government today doesn't command what Pharaoh did then, but our culture has been infiltrated with the idea that we can choose to end the life of a child if it does not align with our current circumstances or desires. As defenders of life, we are working every day and through many means to overcome this widespread cultural mindset, just like the Hebrew midwives.

The Bible doesn't tell us whether or not every single male child born during that period lived, but that the midwives were faithful in the work they were given and saved lives where they could. God blessed the midwives who saved babies so many years ago, and God will bless and strengthen those in that same work today.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, defending life in our current culture can be exhausting and sometimes discouraging. Help us look to you for strength and focus on the work put before us. Give us the grace to work in adverse situations, just as the Hebrew midwives did long ago. Amen.



YOUR GIFT SAVES UNBORN LIVES

When you support Life Choice Pregnancy Care Center, you join a community dedicated to protecting babies threatened by abortion.

Your gift today:

- Connects a woman searching online for help with our 24/7 hotline number, allowing her to experience instant care.
- Ensures women and men considering abortion receive confidential, practical support through a variety of services and resources.
- Provides an expectant mother with a powerful motion picture of the person growing inside her, helping her make a decision to choose life.

Generous people like you ensure that life-transforming work continues in our community and beyond. Thank you for helping to plant seeds of hope and sharing the love of Christ.

