



SAFE CHURCH PROJECT



What is a *Safe Church* as qualified under the *SAFE CHURCH PROJECT*?

A *Safe Church* operates under a *Hope and Grace Chapter* through OperationEQUIP, a project of Hope and Grace International Inc. The project's purpose is to equip the local church to become a safe place for people in the church and community to go in the event of an untimely pregnancy or for help with trauma or difficulties associated with a past abortion. A *Safe Church* will have at least two members who have been trained in specified areas and certified as *Hope and Grace Advocates* to meet with people in need within the church or community to provide non-judgmental friendship and support (with appropriate personal boundaries) as needed and direct them to resources in the church and community. A *Safe Church* will also have accomplished at least one action under the four objectives listed below.

To equip the church to become

- Empowered by Truth
- Healed by Grace
- Champions for Life
- A Safe Place to Run

What does a *Safe Church* do?

When someone in the church or community meets with a pastor or ministry leader or calls the church for help in the area of untimely pregnancy or difficulty dealing with abortion, there is a ready resource to meet these needs. The pastor or ministry leader or receptionist can refer the person to a *Hope and Grace Advocate* who can befriend them and connect them with needed resources in the church and community. Not only will it be one *less* thing a pastor has to worry about, but it will save more lives and connect people in the community to your church through your love in action.

Why do we need *Safe Churches*?

Let's face it, though we make a little progress here or there, abortion numbers have not really dropped with all the efforts made through changing legislation. Tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands of early term abortions occur each year through the morning after pill that is available over the counter to any girl at any age. So, the numbers are not down at all. People are just using different methods. Efforts to change laws are doing nothing to change hearts.

This is also not just about helping women or just for those who have lost children to abortion. Men are also affected by untimely pregnancy and abortion. In fact, the majority of abortions are done on women who identify with the Christian faith, often with a partner or parents who also do yet encourage or pressure her to abort to cover shame or for convenience. That is why it is crucial that the church begin to address this proactively *as* the church.

How does a church become a *Safe Church*?

1. Begin with the *HOPE AND GRACE CHAPTERS GUIDE* document. And follow the instructions there. Church members can participate as a *HOPE AND GRACE AMBASSADOR* or members of your *HOPE AND GRACE CHAPTER*.
2. Use the *BECOMING A "CERTIFIED SAFE CHURCH"* document to see a list of actions your church can begin accomplishing.

ABORTION REDEEMED

CLASS 8: Tearing Down Strongholds

Leader Notes

3. Facilitate **ABORTION REDEEMED** classes at your church.
4. Those who complete the training can become certified as a **Hope and Grace Advocate (HGAD)**
5. When your church has a minimum of two **HGAD's** and has accomplished at least one action under each objective, your church qualifies to be called a **Safe Church**.

The training for **Hope and Grace Advocates** is the **ABORTION REDEEMED** curriculum. But the curriculum will help many in your church become safe through this class. If your church offers the class to all youth and adults it will not only help everyone to have understanding about abortion trauma and all the effects it has on individuals and society. It will also work as a constructive pro-active approach to preventing future abortion and the sexual activity that often leads to it.

The **ABORTION REDEEMED** curriculum can be catered to women or men or done jointly, as long as men and women sit at separate tables for the discussion times. Those who have lost children to abortion will more likely share personal stories, if they desire, if they are with members of their own gender. The subjects covered in this 10-week curriculum include:

CLASS 1: THE TRAUMA OF ABORTION

CLASS 2: COLLATERAL DAMAGE – WHO AND WHAT ELSE IS AFFECTED?

CLASS 3: WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT ABORTION AND IS IT EVER OKAY?

CLASS 4: OBSTACLES WE FACE IN ADDRESSING ABORTION

CLASS 5: WORLDLY SORROW VS. GODLY SORROW

CLASS 6: TURMERIC ON THE WHITE CARPET – SEX IN THE WRONG PLACE

CLASS 7: MYTHS AND FLAWED ARGUMENTS

CLASS 8: TEARING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

CLASS 9: WALKING WITH AN OVERCOMER – THE HEALING BIBLE STUDY

CLASS 10: USHERING A CULTURE OF LIFE INTO THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Until you are able to offer the class, please read *Why Can't We Say the "A" Word in Church: Overcoming Our Dirtiest Secret with Hope and Grace* ([Amazon](#) - Available in hardcopy, Kindle, and KindleUnlimited; or [Focus on the Family](#) – hardcopy only. It is used in conjunction with **ABORTION REDEEMED** and filled with a great deal of helpful information. The book was written for pastors and ministry leaders to help them become equipped to address these difficult subjects and circumstances proactively rather than reactively. In fact, that is what the **Safe Church Project** is all about!

We also encourage churches to partner up with offering this curriculum and working together in the community to lower abortion numbers organically through the love of Christ rather than through politics. The efforts to accomplish the objectives can be made even simpler and more cost effective if done in partnership with other churches.

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