

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

A *Safe Church* operates under a *Hope and Grace Partnership*, 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 *SAFECHURCH* 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 *SAFECHURCH* will also have accomplished at least one action under each of 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 with an 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 *SAFECHURCHES*?

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 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 PARTNERSHIP GUIDE* document. And follow the instructions there. Church members can participate as a *HOPE AND GRACE AMBASSADOR* or *ADVOCATE* or be a part of your *HOPE AND GRACE PARTNERSHIP team*.
2. Use the *BECOMING A "CERTIFIED SAFE CHURCH"* document to see a list of actions your church can begin accomplishing.

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3. Facilitate ***Get EQUIPPED*** classes at your church.
4. This class is a prerequisite to 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 the first three objectives, your church qualifies to be called a ***SAFECHURCH***.

The ***Get EQUIPPED*** curriculum (in whole or in part) is for everyone in your church, not just for HGAD's, to help the entire church become safe, with modified curriculum for young people. 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 ***Get EQUIPPED*** 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 8-week curriculum include:

Get EQUIPPED

SECTION I GOD'S DESIGN

CLASS 1: FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY – GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE HUMAN BODY

CLASS 2: GOD'S WORD ON LIFE AND SEX

SECTION II: MANKIND'S PERVERSION

CLASS 3: THE STAIN – THE "BAIT AND SWITCH" OF IMMORALITY

CLASS 4: ABORTION – THE PARTICIPANTS AND THE TRAUMA

CLASS 5: COLLATERAL DAMAGE – WHO AND WHAT ELSE IS AFFECTED?

SECTION III: THE CHURCH'S CHOICE

CLASS 6: WORD VIEW VS WORLDLY VIEW

CLASS 7: GODLY SORROW VS WORLDLY SORROW

CLASS 8: DEMOLISHING VS DEFENDING FLAWED ARGUMENTS

Those who desire to become ***CERTIFIED HOPE AND GRACE ADVOCATES AND AMBASSADORS*** will also take the following ***Be the SOLUTION*** classes with additional training for Certified Advocates.

Be the SOLUTION

SECTION I: STRATEGIES ON THE BATTLEGROUND

CLASS 1: TEARING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

CLASS 2: BATTLEFIELD TACTICS

CLASS 3: PRACTICING PRO-HUMANITY APOLOGETICS

SECTION II: STRATEGIES OF WALKING WITH OVERCOMERS

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CLASS 4: OVERCOMING THE SHAME AND GRIEF OF ABORTION – THE HEALING BIBLE STUDY

CLASS 5: CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD – EMPOWERING OTHERS FOR LIFE

CLASS 6: CHURCH AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CLASS 7: PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES

SECTION III: STRATEGIES IN WORSHIP

CLASS 8: WORSHIP WARFARE

Until you are able to offer the courses, please read *Why Can't We Say the "A" Word in Church: Overcoming Our Dirtiest Secret with Hope and Grace* (- Available in hardcopy, Kindle, and KindleUnlimited; or [Focus on the Family](#) – hardcopy only. It is 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 **SAFECHURCH PROJECT** is all about! [Memoirs of a Christian Who Chose Abortion](#) is available through Amazon and [Focus on the Family](#). It is a quick read through the impactful stories extracted and expounded upon from the "A" Word Book helpful for church leaders as well as people in crisis.

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

For more information, contact joni@hopeandgraceinternational.com or 503-789-0974.