

LOVE  LIFE



Love Life Mentor Training



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Introduction

It takes very special and dedicated people to do the job you are volunteering to do. Some may feel ready to jump in and take this on. Others may feel underequipped and unsure. Prayerfully after this training, you will feel better equipped and more ready to be a **Love Life Mentor**.

Consider Biblical heroes like Moses, David, and Paul; they acknowledged their weaknesses but became great leaders NOT because they relied solely on their OWN strength, but because they relied on GOD. If God calls you to a ministry, He will equip you!

God is moving in amazing ways and our prayer is that every mom that chooses life is matched *into the local church!* Churches that partner with Love Life participate in prayer walks, pray and fast, welcome Mentees into their churches and match them with Mentors raised up from *within* the congregation.

The local church should be a “House of Refuge,” where families can turn to in times of crisis to receive healing and restoration as they are discipled in truth and love and pointed to Jesus! We will see abortion end as more families run to the Church and no longer run to the abortion centers.

Mentors are *vital* in this culture shift as they are the calm in the storm for these fearful, hurting families. Mentoring is hard, and sometimes painful or disappointing; however, even if they don’t sprout right away, you are planting seeds and ministering to the vulnerable.

Definitions

Mentor- Christian “guide” who is the direct contact for the Mentee to BEFRIEND, EQUIP and DO LIFE.

Mentee- Could be one of the following:

1. Mom or Dad who chooses life at the abortion center.
2. Post-abortive Mom or Dad
3. Mom in a crisis pregnancy who may have not considered abortion.

Sidewalk Counselor- Christian witness at the abortion center prayerfully pleading for a family to choose life.

Love Life Mentors Team- Love Life staff and volunteers who coordinate matches and guard personal information of all Mentors and Mentees.

Mentor Advocate- Rep chosen by the pastor of a Love Life partnering church who is able to recruit new Mentors and manage matches within the church.

Match to Mentoring Process

1. Mom chooses life at the abortion center and connects with a sidewalk counselor.
2. Sidewalk counselor assesses needs and fills out an intake form which goes directly to the local Love Life Mentors Team.
3. The local Love Life Mentors Team contacts the mom to go deeper regarding the immediate needs and to explain the Mentor program in more detail.
4. The Love Life Mentors Team finds a mentor in close proximity to the Mentee and contacts the prospective Mentor to share more information and determine availability.
5. The prospective Mentor agrees to be matched with their Mentee and information about their Mentee is shared with them.
6. The Mentor reaches out **immediately** (suggest text first and then phone call) to the Mentee to start their relationship.
7. The Mentor schedules a face-to-face meeting (a public place) with their Mentee.
8. **Befriend**: The Mentor continues regular communication and encouragement and gets to know the Mentee.
9. **Equip**: The Mentor and their church help point the mom or dad to practical resources and develop an action plan to meet the top needs indicated on the Mentee’s intake form. The goal should be to lovingly guide them to “self-sufficiency.”
10. **Do Life**: Mentor and their church continue to provide guidance and discipleship, share the gospel and invite them to join their church community/network. The Mentor and their church will also throw a baby shower to celebrate and prepare the family for parenthood.

Mentoring Roadmap

Once the Mentor says yes to, someone from the Love Life Mentors Team will give them the details of the Mentee's situation. This is **CONFIDENTIAL** info, only for the Mentor's knowledge (not other church members).

1. BEFRIEND

- a. Call your Mentee to introduce yourself. Also, use text. Mentees are sometimes better with texting than calling.
- b. Make a date to meet each other at a place you both feel safe/comfortable. Usually to get a meal together, at a playground, etc.
- c. If you can't reach your Mentee, keep trying! Text, send messages of encouragement, Bible verses that spoke to you today, etc. Many times Mentees are still on the fence about continuing with their pregnancy, so persistence is key. Vary your attempts to reach them.
- d. Share a pregnancy app with them such as What to Expect, send Bible verses, talk/text, do things you would do with a new friend to grow and develop your friendship. This groundwork is the KEY!

2. EQUIP

- a. **The mentor program is not meant to be a cash handout opportunity, but an equipping opportunity.**
- b. As you get to know each other, you will discover more of what their needs are. Help connect them with resources in your area, using the online resource guide
- c. One of the first things you should do with your Mentee is to visit a local pregnancy resource center...they have a wealth of resources for crisis pregnancies!
- d. If the Mentee is in need of counseling, try to get that arranged ASAP. We have some counselors that are available for free phone counseling. Your church may even have a counseling team available to connect them with.
- e. Try to arrange for a 3D ultrasound if available in your city.
- f. Make sure your Mentee is getting prenatal care. Help her enroll in childbirth classes, parenting classes, pregnancy Medicaid, etc. **Local PRCs are awesome resources!**
- g. Once the baby's gender is known (usually after a 15 week ultrasound), it is time to plan the **baby shower!!!** Find out if the Mentee's family is planning to throw a shower. If so, then find out what they plan to provide and then come in behind and fill in the gaps.
 - i. Get the whole church involved! Mom's groups, etc.



- ii. New and gently used items are welcome!
- iii. Consignment shops are great, Mom-to-Mom groups, Letgo, Nextdoor, etc.
- iv. Should provide for the first 2 years of baby's life (including clothing based upon due date, size and seasons).
- v. **Tips, best practices and a gift list can be found on pages 9 & 10.**
- h. (Optional) Arrange for a maternity or newborn photo shoot for mom and dad.
You may know someone in your church who could do this, but we also have some resources available!
- i. (Optional) Throw a gender reveal with your Mentee!

3. DO LIFE

- a. Invite your Mentee to church!
- b. Disciple their hearts!
 - i. Give them a Bible, a journal, a devotional, etc...!
 - ii. As the Holy Spirit leads you, offer to study with them or invite them to your homegroup or women's or men's bible study or whatever works! Your GREATEST mission, besides saving this baby's life, is bringing the family to Christ! Some are soft and ready. Others will take time to warm up. Some may never do so. Be open and encouraging. Be lovingly persistent. It is a journey...
- c. Continue the friendship journey... invite for holidays. See if you can deepen your relationship/friendship. Be real with each other.
- d. Keep doing LIFE together. It is our prayer that this is a lifelong relationship. Sometimes a Mentee only wants help for a season...only time will tell.

4. COMMUNICATE

- a. Mentors should communicate with the Love Life Mentors Team:
 - i. When first contact is made (should be within 24 hours)
 - ii. When first meeting happens or plans to meet in the future
 - iii. With any known needs, concerns, excitements, victories.
 - iv. If there are changes to contact info.
 - v. Baby shower progress (we'd love an invite).
 - vi. Baby's birth and info **with pictures!**

Wisdom from the Sidewalk

We wanted to give you some perspective from the eyes of a “first responder”- the Sidewalk Counselor. They meet women at a very crucial moment and help them choose life. We want to honor their sacrifice as they lay their lives down daily to reach these women. Here is what they have to say:

- Although these women choose life, they are still vulnerable. Treat them as such. So many times we think choosing life is the hurdle and everything is smooth-sailing from there, but really that's just the beginning of their hardship and spiritual warfare.
- Ask your Mentee how she's feeling. Get her to open up and share her true thoughts and concerns, in case they still have some doubt. Find out if they've told anyone else about the baby or set future plans (doctor appointment, pregnancy announcement to their other kids or family members).
- Examples: Have you told your mom yet? How did she react? If the answer is no, offer suggestions on how to tell her. Or, did you tell your daughter/son about the new baby? If not, have you thought about a special way you might like to tell her/him? Then, offer a suggestion.
- Once they tell others and get someone close to them excited and supportive, they tend to stay encouraged and solid in their decision.
- Text DAILY- especially at first. The first couple of weeks are critical.
- Share TRUTH and LOVE! They need to feel the empowered, positive, love of God who pursued US when WE were still sinners. They also need to know clearly what God says about the sanctity of human life. The message of God’s forgiveness is not as critical to state in the early weeks because they so often lean on His grace as an excuse to have the abortion (“God will forgive me”). Overwhelmingly, the women coming for an abortion claim to be Christians, but so few of them really understand what it means to call Jesus LORD. Jesus Himself said “if you love me you will do what I say.” This includes protecting the life of their preborn child. You must balance Jesus’ love with the truth of what a terrible sin abortion is.
- Make a plan to meet up in person as soon as possible. Offer to buy them lunch or go shopping.
- We have seen a lot of women fall through the cracks in terms of what we have listed as their major need and potential resources and then don’t see that mentors are always following through. Mentors must address all of the areas that the Mentee has stated as “top needs” on the intake form.
- If the mom stops communicating or goes back to the abortion center to abort, know that it was NOT YOUR FAULT. This is a spiritual battle, and sometimes the fear and doubt can overtake the mom. You did what you could!

Resource Guides

- When there is an “emergency” need, you will have a better idea of what is available in your area.
- Discuss ahead of time with your pastor if your church is willing to help with financial needs and under what conditions?
- The Mentor/church is not meant to be a financial handout for all needs, but feel free to help with certain things as the Holy Spirit leads.
- Helping these families learn to fish will equip them to stand independently and free!
- You’ll want to connect with your local missionary to obtain a copy of your city’s Resource Guide.
- Pregnancy Centers may also have a list of resources that you can access. Just ask!

Additional Training/Recommended Reading

Making Life Disciples: Consider taking the Care Net Initiative’s “Making Life Disciples” program. It helps to prepare a Mentor to be an excellent advocate for a family considering abortion. It covers MANY of the concerns and questions a Mentor and Mentee experience. To sign up or get more information, visit <https://www.makinglifedisciples.com/>.

Help Her Be Brave: Discover Your Place in the Pro-Life Movement by Amy Ford: read about many lives that have been impacted by Embrace Grace and learn over 300 ideas on how to help empower women and save lives!

Now That You're Saved by Jay Zinn (new believer discipleship booklet):
<https://thediscipleshipgroup.com/product/now-that-youre-saved/>

The Christian Believers Handbook by Jay Zinn
<https://thediscipleshipgroup.com/product/the-christian-believers-handbook/>

Embrace Grace: helps women walking through the unsteady season of an unexpected pregnancy, women navigating single-motherhood and young men embarking on a new journey of fatherhood by connecting them to judgement-free support groups in churches across the world.

Tips for Throwing a Successful Baby Shower

Best Practices:

- Share the gospel with the mom (and dad if possible).
- Protect the family's privacy.
- Deliver gifts to the mom's house after the shower.
- Wrap/bag all gifts.
- Personalize the gift tags on every item with the mother's name.
- Buy gift bags in bulk or ask for donations!
- Involve the church and women's groups/home groups in preparing and hosting the shower. (This is a GREAT way to invite the Mentee into the church and church family so that they will feel more comfortable).
- It is helpful to make a sign-up and/or shower registry so that you know what items are coming and what is still needed.
- People are welcome to donate clean, gently used items from their own family, or purchase them from a consignment store.
- Monetary donations (gift cards) are great as that allows you to fill in the gaps for what is missing and/or purchase the bigger items.

Questions to ask:

- Planning to breastfeed?
- Need a breast pump?
- Father involved? (This determines whether "Daddy" clothes can be included)
- Do you have the space for all the things provided for 2 years, or do you need only the essentials?
- Do you already have things from previous babies?
- Will you be having another shower thrown by friends/family? (If so, let that one be thrown first, and then fill in the gaps after that)

Gifts

- Make sure to request sizes that will fit the baby for 2 calendar years (seasonal specific)
- Make sure there are at least 12-15 outfits for each size.
- Wash and hang any used clothing that is donated.
- List of items on next page (go over this with the mom)

Baby Shower Gift List

Textiles

- Blankets
- Burp cloths
- Hood towels
- Washcloths
- Car seat accessories
- Nursing pillow
- Nursing cover
- Diaper bag
- Sling/Carrier

Equipment

- Car seat
- Stroller
- Swing*
- Bouncy seat*
- Floor play mat
- Exersaucer
- High chair
- Bumbo seat
- Monitor
- Bathtub

Bedding

- Crib*
- Mattress
- Mattress Pad
- Crib bedding/sheets
- Pack and Play*
- Bassinet*

Feeding

- Bottles and nipples
- Formula
- Sippy cups
- Bibs
- Breast pump

Toys and Books

- Toys
- Toys for other siblings
- Stuffed animals
- Books
- Movies
- Baby care books
- Picture frames/albums

Toiletries & Other

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Powder
- Diaper cream
- Medical kit (thermometer, nasal bulb, medicine dropper, nail clippers, etc.)
- Pacifiers
- Hair brush/comb
- Safety kit (outlet covers, etc.)

Gospel Materials

- Book
- Bible

Clothing (NB-24mos)

- Hats
- Outerwear
- Socks
- Shoes
- Onesies
- Pajamas
- Sets
- Diaper covers

*Some items could be either/or deals. Crib OR pack-n-play. Swing or bouncy seat.