**Hot Topics**

Abortion & the Bible

Scripture on Life in General

* Man is created in the image of God
	+ So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:27)
		- Distinct difference between the life of man and that of an animal
			* And he that killeth a beast, he shall restore it: and he that killeth a man, he shall be put to death. (Lev 24:21)
			* 25 ¶ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? (Matthew 6:25-26)
* God is the giver of life
	+ The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. (Job 33:4)
	+ For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light. (Ps 36:9)
	+ By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother’s bowels: my praise *shall be* continually of thee. (Ps 71:6)
	+ 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; (Acts 17:24-25)
* Some Principles of God’s Word
	+ Choose Life
		- 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, *and that* ye shall not prolong *your* days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: (Deut 30:17-19)
	+ No one should be put to death for the sins of others
		- The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin. (Deut 24:16)
* Value of a Child’s Life
	+ And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through *the fire* to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD. (Lev 18:21)
	+ Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. (Deut 12:31)
	+ 37 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, 38 And shed innocent blood, *even* the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. (Psalms 106:37-38)
	+ 10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: 11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and *also* much cattle? (Jonah 4:10-11)
	+ And whosoever shall offend one of *these* little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. (Mark 9:42)
* God’s Blessings on Those Who Protect Babies
	+ 15 ¶ And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one *was* Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: 16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it *be* a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it *be* a daughter, then she shall live. 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. 18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? 19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women *are* not as the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. 20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. 21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. (Ex 1:15-21)

Scripture on Life in the Womb

* 13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them. (Ps 139:13-16)
* 4 ¶ Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. (Jer 1:4-5)
* Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb? (Job 31:15)
* But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother’s breasts. (Ps 22:9)
* Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments. (Ps 119:73)
* Examples of life in the womb
	+ 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. (Luke 1:13-17)
		- And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: (Luke 1:41)

Begat

* And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: (Gen 5:4)
* Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. (Prov 23:22)
* yalad (yaw-lad’)
* AV-beget 201, bare 110, born 79, bring forth 25, bear 23, travail 16, midwife 10, child 8, delivered 5, borne 3, birth 2, labour 2, brought up 2, misc 12; 498
* 1) to bear, bring forth, beget, gender, travail
	+ 1a) (Qal)
		- 1a1) to bear, bring forth
			* 1a1a) of child birth
			* 1a1b) of distress (simile)
			* 1a1c) of wicked (behaviour)
		- 1a2) to beget
	+ 1b) (Niphal) to be born
	+ 1c) (Piel)
		- 1c1) to cause or help to bring forth
		- 1c2) to assist or tend as a midwife
		- 1c3) midwife (participle)
	+ 1d) (Pual) to be born
	+ 1e) (Hiphil)
		- 1e1) to beget (a child)
		- 1e2) to bear (fig. -of wicked bringing forth iniquity)
	+ 1f) (Hophal) day of birth, birthday (infinitive)
	+ 1g) (Hithpael) to declare one’s birth (pedigree)

Controversial Passages

* And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen 2:7)
* 22 ¶ If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart *from her*, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman’s husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*. 23 And if *any* mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, 24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. (Ex 21:22-25)
	+ 3 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward. 4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. (Ps 127:3-4)
	+ Thy wife *shall be* as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. (Ps 128:3)

How Should We Respond as Christians?

* Preach the gospel
* Love & forgiveness

Abortion Statistics

* More than 56 million American babies have been killed in the United States since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973.
	+ The number of American babies killed by abortion each year is roughly equalto the number of U.S. military deaths that have occurred in all of the wars that the United States has ever been involved in combined.
	+ Approximately 3,000 Americans lost their lives as a result of the destruction of the World Trade Center towers on 9/11. Every single day, more than 3,000 American babies are killed by abortion.
	+ Twenty-one percent of all U.S. pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion (Guttmacher Institute (AGI)).
* Overall, there have been well over a billion abortions performed around the world since 1980.
* Mississippi had the lowest abortion rate in 2011 (Wyoming had too few abortions for reliable tabulation), and New York had the highest (AGI). There were approximately 17.5 births for every abortion in Mississippi and approximately 2.3 births for every abortion in New York.
	+ 41 percent of all New York City pregnancies end in abortion.
	+ Approximately 78 percent of all abortions in New York City are performed on African-American and Hispanic babies.
* According to Pastor Clenard Childress, approximately 52 percent of all African-American pregnancies now end in abortion.
* Black women were 3.6 times more likely to have an abortion in 2012 than non-Hispanic white women (CDC).
* Planned Parenthood specifically targets the poor. A staggering 72 percent of Planned Parenthood’s “customers” have incomes that are either equal to or beneath 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
* There are 30 Planned Parenthood executives that make more than $200,000 a year. A few of them actually make more than $300,000 a year.
* Most women that get abortions in the United States claim to be Christian. Protestant women get 42 percent of all abortions and Catholic women get 27 percent of all abortions.
	+ Protestant supporters of abortion rights include the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopalian Church, the United Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Lutheran Women's Caucus. The American Baptist Churches USA, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and The United Church of Christ consider abortion permissible under certain restricted circumstances. O'Brien, George Dennis (30 September 2010).[*The Church and abortion: a Catholic dissent*](https://books.google.com/books?id=VYBUE1ZZNA4C&pg=PA9). Rowman & Littlefield. p. 9.[*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [*978-1-4422-0577-2*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/978-1-4422-0577-2)*. Retrieved 5 January 2012*.

Why do they occur?

* A study found that 86 percent of all abortions are done for the sake of convenience.
* On average, women give at least 3 reasons for choosing abortion: 3/4 say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other responsibilities; about 3/4 say they cannot afford a child; and 1/2 say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner (AGI).
* Only 12% of women included a physical problem with their health among reasons for having an abortion (NAF).
* One per cent (of aborting women) reported that they were the survivors of rape (NAF).
	+ Former Southern Baptist Convention President W.A. Criswell (1969-1970) welcomed Roe v. Wade, saying that “"I have always felt that it was only after a child was born and had a life separate from its mother that it became an individual person," the redoubtable fundamentalist declared, "and it has always, therefore, seemed to me that what is best for the mother and for the future should be allowed." This was a common attitude among evangelicals at the time. Criswell would later reverse himself on his earlier position.

http://www.abort73.com/abortion\_facts/us\_abortion\_statistics/

http://www.infowars.com/19-statistics-about-abortion-that-every-american-should-know/

**Facing the Truth**

By [Tricia Goyer](https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/parenting-challenges/facing-the-truth)

It was a story I did not want to tell. But as Sanctity of Life Sunday approached, my pastor asked me to share my story with the church — the story I had kept secret for many years. My abortion story. And while I understood this message could help other women find forgiveness, I also knew it meant I'd have to tell my kids — something I dreaded.

My kids were ages 10, 7 and 5. Although I was their mom, I thought they'd hate me when they knew the truth. After all, just how do you tell your kids that they'd have another brother or sister if it weren't for their mom's bad decision?

John and I prayed about how to tell our children. We knew that although they'd heard the word abortion before, they most likely didn't understand what it was. Since they were still young, they didn't need to know details. We also wanted them to know why many women terminate their pregnancy — because of fear, worry or pressure from other people.

A few days later, my husband and I explained to our kids that abortion meant a woman did not want to be pregnant and had an operation to end the life of her baby. I could tell from my kids' faces that they were horrified. John shared why a woman might do this, and they expressed sadness for those women. Then, with tears in my eyes, I told them my story.

**When sin is allowed to grow**

With a shaky voice, I explained that when I was in high school, I had become pregnant. I said that when I visited a clinic, the workers told me it really wasn't a baby yet and that everything would be better if I had the procedure. I told my kids that I had always wanted to be a mom, but I was afraid of having a baby as a 15-year-old. I was worried about what people would think.

I told my kids that I wanted to believe that what the clinic worker said was true because it seemed like an easy way out. So I ignored the nagging voice in my head that told me I was ending a life. After the abortion, I was heartbroken and numb. It took many years for the emotional pain to go away.

John and I also explained that I had not been following Jesus, and I had wanted things my own way. I read James 1:14-15 to my children: "But your own evil longings tempt you. They lead you on and drag you away. When they are allowed to grow, they give birth to sin. When sin has grown up, it gives birth to death" (NIrV). In this case, my sin led to the death of their brother or sister. My kids listened, and I could see sadness on their faces.

**Finding forgiveness**

Months after my abortion, I saw a woman wearing a Precious Feet pin on her sweater. When I commented about it, she told me that her pin represented the size of the feet of a 10-week-old fetus. I knew then that my baby had a body, feet, hands and a beating heart. The reality of my decision became clear. Overwhelmed with guilt, I became self-destructive and made more bad decisions.

But when I was 17, I accepted Jesus. I realized I'd been making wrong choices, and I asked God to do something with my life.

I told my kids I had asked Jesus to forgive me. I asked for their forgiveness, too, for ending the life of the sibling they'd never know on earth.

It only took a few seconds for three sets of arms to wrap around me. "It's OK, Mom. We love you, and we forgive you!" they told me.

It was like a dam broke within my soul. For so long this secret had been swelling against the wall I had built. Sharing the truth, and seeing they still loved me, made my chest light and warm. Tears spilled as I held them in my arms. As a mom, the last people I wanted to disappoint were my kids.

Their hurt was evident. But their love was even greater.

**Sharing the story**

Whenever my children brought up the subject, whether it was weeks, months or even years later, we would talk about it. A few times they told me about friends who asked them about what I'd shared at church, and they were able to explain my story. Later, when I told my story to other groups, I shared with my kids how my story helped those who needed to know about Jesus' forgiveness, too. We would talk about how God could use even the painful stuff in our lives to help others.

When my daughter was 16, she returned from a youth social gathering and told me that the subject of abortion came up.

"Mom, many of them said that a woman should have a choice," she reported, "but then I told them your story."

My daughter had shared with her peers about my heartache and pain. "Many women do not know what they are choosing, and they suffer for years afterward," she told them, "just like my mom."

Originally, keeping my secret seemed like the right thing to do, but sharing my experience has allowed others, my children included, to better understand decisions and consequences — and the truth about pain, loss and regret.

**Should *you*share your secret?**

Some sensitive events from the past may not be appropriate for young children. Consider the nature of the secret and the child's age and maturity. Focus on the Family counselor Daniel Huerta has written an article titled "[Your Past, Your Kids: the Conversation](http://www.thrivingfamily.com/Features/Web/2011/your-past-your-kids-the-conversation.aspx)" and addresses how to broach sensitive subjects with children.

Focus on the Family has resources and counseling to help you and your family. You can contact us [during normal business hours](http://family.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/family.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=14190) at: (800) A-FAMILY (232-6459) or help@FocusOnTheFamily.com. Or you can [find resources, referrals and articles to help you](http://family.custhelp.com/) right now.

*Tricia Goyer is the author of 25 books and has written over 300 articles for national publications. Her book for teen moms,*[Life Interrupted](http://family.christianbook.com/life-interrupted-scoop-being-young-mom/tricia-goyer/9780310253167/pd/53167?p=1146767)*, was a finalist for the Gold Medallion Book Award in 2005.*