

Healing Hearts' Pastoral Talking Points

Ministering with Gospel-Centered Compassion to Those Affected by Abortion

(Especially for Sanctity of Life Sunday & January Emphasis)



1. Sanctity of Life Includes Care for the “Walking Wounded”

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...” — Isaiah 61:1

Key Truths:

- When we speak of the sanctity of life, we must speak not only of protecting the unborn, but also of shepherding those wounded by abortion.
- Jesus Himself defined His mission as one that binds up the brokenhearted—making care for the wounded a central gospel priority, not a secondary concern.
- Post-abortion men and women represent one of the largest unreached mission fields within our churches.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

“Sanctity of life does not end at birth, nor does it stop at moral clarity. It extends into the quiet places where men and women carry unresolved grief, shame, and loss. Scripture tells us that Christ came to bind up the brokenhearted—and that includes those wounded by abortion.”

Teaching Emphasis:

- Emphasize that pro-life conviction and gospel compassion are inseparable.
- Help the congregation see care for the wounded as obedience to Christ’s mission, not a secondary ministry concern.

2. Many Suffer in Silence—Even Inside the Church

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18

Key Truths:

- Shame and fear often keep post-abortive individuals silent—even among believers.
- Silence is often mistaken for healing.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

“There are many people who sit quietly in our churches carrying pain they’ve never spoken out loud. Silence does not mean the wound is gone—it often means the person is afraid to be known. Scripture reminds us that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and the church must reflect that same nearness.”

Teaching Emphasis:

- Teach that emotional silence is often a spiritual warning sign, not resolution.
- Encourage a church culture where confession and vulnerability are met with grace.

3. The Gospel Offers Grace Without Condemnation

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." — Romans 8:1

Key Truths:

- The gospel addresses abortion as both sin and suffering.
- Christ offers forgiveness, repentance, and restoration without condemnation.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

"The gospel never ignores sin, but it also never leaves people crushed beneath it. For those who have experienced abortion, the message of Scripture is not condemnation, but forgiveness and new life in Christ. Where repentance is needed, grace makes it possible—and where shame has ruled, the gospel brings freedom."

Teaching Emphasis:

- Clarify that repentance flows from grace, not fear.
- Reinforce justification in Christ as the foundation for healing.

4. Healing Is a Discipleship Issue, Not Merely a Counseling Issue

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." — Psalm 147:3

Key Truths:

- True healing requires biblical discipleship that addresses the heart.
- God's Word speaks directly to guilt, shame, identity, and forgiveness.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

"Healing from deep wounds doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't happen apart from God's Word. Scripture tells us that God Himself heals the brokenhearted. Walking with people toward healing is part of discipleship—it's helping them apply the truth of the gospel to the places where they hurt the most."

Teaching Emphasis:

- Teach sanctification as a process of gospel application, not behavior management.
- Encourage patience, Scripture saturation, and relational discipleship.

5. Abortion Affects Men Too—Including Fathers

“And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers...”— Malachi 4:6

Key Truths:

- Every abortion involves a father.
- Men often carry hidden grief and unresolved pain that goes unnoticed.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

“We must also remember that abortion affects men. Fathers often carry grief and regret that no one ever acknowledges. God cares deeply about restoring the hearts of fathers, even when reconciliation is not possible in this life. Men need to know there is room for their grief—and healing for their hearts—in the body of Christ.”

Teaching Emphasis:

- Teach a biblical theology of fatherhood that includes loss and restoration.
- Normalize men’s grief and invite them into gospel healing.

6. The Abortion Debate Often Hurts Those We Hope to Reach

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”— Colossians 4:6

Key Truths:

- Public debates can unintentionally wound those with personal trauma.
- Many hear discussions about abortion through the lens of their own story.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

“Behind every statistic is a real person. Our words matter. Scripture calls us to speak with grace and wisdom, recognizing that some who hear us are carrying deep pain. A gospel-centered response does not soften truth—but it does deliver it with compassion and care.”

Teaching Emphasis:

- Teach discernment in speech and tone as marks of spiritual maturity.
- Encourage congregants to prioritize people over arguments.

7. Compassion Requires Action, Not Just Awareness

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”— Galatians 6:2

Key Truths:

- Awareness alone does not bring healing.
- The church is called to actively walk with the wounded.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

“Knowing that people are hurting is only the beginning. Scripture calls us to bear one another’s burdens, and that requires action. When the church moves toward the wounded—through prayer, presence, and support—healing can begin. Compassion must move from our hearts to our hands.”

Teaching Emphasis:

- Teach obedience as active love, not passive concern.
- Encourage practical pathways for congregational involvement.

8. God Restores the Broken So They Can Help Restore Others

“...to comfort all who mourn... that they may be called oaks of righteousness...”— Isaiah 61:2–3

Key Truths:

- God often uses healed people to help heal others.
- Restoration leads to mission.

Suggested Pastoral Language:

“God does not waste our pain. Scripture tells us that those He restores become strong and fruitful, able to help others find hope. The gospel leaves no one behind, and a church committed to healing becomes a church equipped to reach the broken world around it.”

Teaching Emphasis:

- Teach that restoration fuels multiplication, not isolation.
- Cast a vision for healing as a missional outcome of the gospel.

Optional Closing Statement

“As we honor the sanctity of life, may we also honor the grace that restores lives already wounded. May our church be known not only for what we believe, but for how we love—and for the hope we offer through Jesus Christ.”

Combined Pastoral Statements

(Compiled from all Suggested Pastoral Language)

"When we talk about the sanctity of life, we must remember that this includes people who are still living with deep wounds. Jesus said He came to bind up the brokenhearted, and that includes men and women who carry grief, shame, or loss connected to abortion. Many sit quietly in our churches carrying pain they've never spoken out loud. Silence does not mean the wound is gone—it often means someone is afraid to be known."

The gospel never ignores sin, but it also never leaves people crushed beneath it. For those who have experienced abortion, the message of Scripture is not condemnation, but forgiveness and new life in Christ. Healing does not happen overnight, and it does not happen apart from God's Word. Walking with people toward healing is part of discipleship—helping them apply the truth of the gospel to the places where they hurt the most.

We must also remember that abortion affects men. Fathers often carry grief and regret that no one ever acknowledges, yet God cares deeply about restoring their hearts—even when reconciliation is not possible in this life. Our words matter. Behind every statistic is a real person, and Scripture calls us to speak with grace and wisdom, recognizing that some who hear us are carrying deep pain.

Compassion cannot remain only in our hearts; it must move us to action. And the hope we hold out is this: God does not waste our pain. He restores the brokenhearted and uses those He heals to bring hope to others. As we honor the sanctity of life, may we also honor the grace that restores lives already wounded through Jesus Christ."

Optional Referral to Healing Hearts Ministries Studies

"For those who may be carrying wounds from a past abortion, we want you to know that help and hope are available. Healing Hearts Ministries offers gospel-centered, grace-driven discipleship led by trained biblical counselors who walk men and women through God's Word toward healing and restoration. There is a men's study called Restoring a Father's Heart, and a women's study called Binding Up the Brokenhearted, both designed to help individuals bring their pain honestly before the Lord and experience the freedom and forgiveness found in Christ."

[If your church has Healing Hearts counselors] We want you to know that we have trained Healing Hearts biblical counselors at our church who are here to walk alongside anyone in need. You can reach out confidentially through the contact information provided by our church.

If you know of someone who is suffering from having had an abortion, please consider referring them to one of Healing Hearts' post-abortion studies at healinghearts.org/get-help-now. Trained, compassionate biblical counselors are waiting, ready to walk with them through God's Word to find the fullness of hope and healing that God offers.

[If your church has Healing Hearts Prayer Guide handout] We also encourage every member of our church to remember that Healing Hearts is a resource you can confidently refer friends or family members to who may be suffering in silence. And if you find it helpful, please consider taking home the Healing Hearts Prayer Guide today as a way to continue praying for the men and women affected by abortion and for the healing work God desires to do in their lives."

For further resources on ministering with compassion and love to the post-abortive women and men around you, please visit healinghearts.org/sanctity-of-life.