

# UNPLANNED PREGNANCY



Even if you've always believed that life is precious and that babies deserve the chance to live, experiencing an unplanned pregnancy yourself can be overwhelming. You find that it's more complex than just a yes or no decision. All the things that are at stake, added to the hormones that are likely affecting your emotions, can leave you feeling confused and afraid.

**What should you consider as you try  
to decide the best options for  
both you and this new life?**

## CONSIDERATION ONE

### The Gift of Life

Every human life has value regardless of the circumstances. That goes for you and your baby. You were both created in the image of God and were fearfully and wonderfully made. All of your days were written in God's book before one of them came to be (Psalm 139:13-16). Even though you don't know your future or the future of this baby's life, your decisions affect both. Pray that God will help you make choices that preserve His best for both of you - to allow you both to experience the full life He offers. As Jesus said, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10:10).

## CONSIDERATION TWO

### The Responsibilities Ahead

Choosing to give birth to your baby is a heroic step. But that's just the beginning. Now you must decide who will raise this child. There is great responsibility involved in caring for a child in both the short- and long-term. Being a parent means learning to lay down your life as a servant for your child (Philippians 2:3-7). Many mothers choose to take on this responsibility alone. Single mothers usually find, however, that the responsibilities are greater than they ever imagined and there will be a need for additional support.

If you hope to raise this child yourself, you should pray about where the child's father fits in. A father can make all the difference in a child's life - for better or worse. Often, an unplanned pregnancy can uncover a man's true character and make it clear whether or not he has the courage and discipline to be a good husband or father. There are times, however, when the father of your child can still become the man you and your child need. With dependency on the Lord, a lot of work and Biblical counsel, it's possible to make an unplanned family work.

## **CONSIDERATION THREE**

### **The Hope of Redemption**

God is in the business of turning situations that feel like a mess into "happily ever after" stories. Having your child's father commit to the long-term responsibilities of marriage and parenting can provide a hopeful story of redemption. When that's not the case, however, the best hope for your child may be adoption by parents who are prepared for the responsibilities ahead. There can be great heartache in holding your new baby and then handing it over to someone else, but it's often the best choice you can make for your child's future. It also can be an answer to prayer for the couple who hopes to adopt children.

## GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

### **BRAVELOVE**

BraveLove is a pro-adoption movement dedicated to changing the perception of adoption by acknowledging birth moms for their brave decision. Visit [bravelove.org](http://bravelove.org) for videos and resources.

### **A BUMP IN LIFE: TRUE STORIES OF HOPE AND COURAGE DURING AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY** by Amy Ford

Will help anyone going through or connected with this situation move from feelings of loneliness, shame, and worry to the far more lasting joy that is God's redemptive blessing of a child.

## GOING FURTHER SUPPORT

### **COUNSELING AT HILL COUNTRY**

Hill Country Bible Church has the vision to offer professional counseling along with excellent pastoral care to help those in need find an anchor to weather the storms of life. Life's burdens can be so heavy to carry at times, and we find ourselves needing support and guidance. As a ministry of Hill Country Bible Church, we want to come alongside you in your time of need and embrace the power of community on the road of healing. For more information, please visit [hcbc.com/counseling](http://hcbc.com/counseling)

### **AGAPE PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER**

Agape Pregnancy Resource Center exists to demonstrate and share God's unconditional love by providing practical help and loving support to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. Agape PRC provides pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, educational opportunities, counseling services, maternity clothes and more – all at no charge to the client. For more info, visit [agapeprc.org](http://agapeprc.org)

### **HILL COUNTRY CHILDREN**

Hill Country Bible Church. Church offers a variety of programs that come alongside parents in their effort to instill faith in children. We are committed to pour in to the next generation by partnering with families to teach children the truth about God that are fun, safe, and engaging. For more info, please visit [hcbc.com/children](http://hcbc.com/children)