

RESPOND

Interceding for the unborn



a resource from Manchester House of Prayer

N°002



SOCIAL

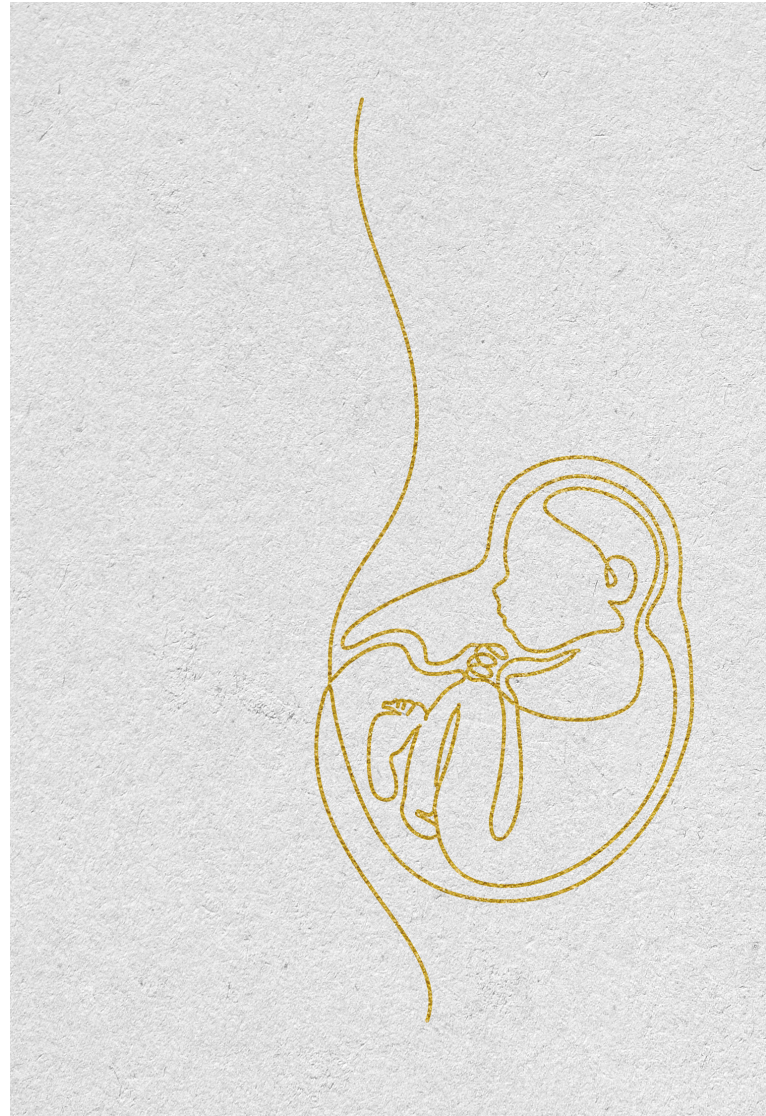
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*"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."* **DEUT 30:19-20**

The bible challenges us to choose life. As the creator of all things, God has commissioned us to be stewards of His creation which means protecting the most vulnerable in society, including the unborn. How should we respond to the reality of abortion?

Whatever your previous experience or engagement with this issue may be, this booklet is designed to help you engage anew with the issue of abortion in prayer, keeping your eyes fixed on Him and allowing Him to shape our thinking and actions. You'll find some first steps into intercession and some prayer topics to dig deeper.

ABORTION

In the UK, the 1967 Abortion Act legalised abortion under certain conditions with the intention of preventing maternal deaths related to illegal abortion procedures. But it failed to recognise that the legalising of the destruction of life was opening the door of permission to a hardening of hearts. Influenced by secular philosophies, this trend continues to gain momentum, promoting abortion as a right and denying any value to the unborn child. Too often in this debate the voice of God has been reduced to an unsympathetic moral or political authoritarianism. We desperately need a fresh encounter with His heart!

These issues will always remain challenging, not least because of the

profound depth of emotions and complex situations that make up the real human lives that struggle with the decision to choose life. It's no wonder there are strong feelings involved! But the silence of the church can equally be interpreted as a heart-breaking expression of how little we care about the struggles of peoples lives.

If the body of Christ is going to bear witness to God in the world, we must resist the temptation to disengage or react without first having wrestled with God's heart and perspective on the issue. Instead we're invited to encounter and respond to His intentions and affections both for the mother and for the unborn child, and to seek to bear witness to His love in truth.

KEY VERSE

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

*How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!*

*Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.*

PSALM 139:13-18

PERSPECTIVE

We pray for ourselves, the church, that God would indeed give us wisdom and revelation to know His heart; to encounter anew His love that surpasses our own understanding; that our eyes would be enlightened, and our hearts purified; to see the depth of His affection towards every form of suffering; to see and bear a true witness to the delight and value with which He holds every life.



THE WOMEN

We pray for every woman carrying an unborn child, especially those who are in crisis and wrestling with the decision to choose life, that God would be strengthening them by His Spirit and by the encounter with His love; that He would hear and respond to the cries of their heart with comfort; that they would know His heart towards them and the good He purposes for them.

THE CHILDREN

We pray for every unborn child, that even as they are being formed in their mothers' wombs by God's design that He would be gracious and fill them with His Holy Spirit; that He would bless them and keep them for every good plan and purpose He has towards them; that He would hear their cry and establish justice.

PRAYERS

To help you continue to pray, these are some prayer topics to dig deeper, including a specific biblical prayer for each one. This list is by no means exhaustive but meant to serve as markers as you navigate through praying for this issue.

Those considering abortion

That they may know God's love and be strengthened through His Spirit

EPHESIANS 3:16-19

Those who have chosen life for their unborn child

For the strength to persevere in love and patience

COLOSSIANS 1:10-11

Those who have had an abortion

That the Lord would bring healing and restoration

PSALM 34:17-18

Families affected by abortion

That they would know comfort and hope through the Holy Spirit

ROMANS 15:5,13

Ministries

For a release of God's power as they contend for breakthrough

LUKE 24:49-50

The Church

That God would release healing, signs and wonders and boldness to proclaim His word

ACTS 4:29-31

Government

That God's Word would run swiftly through the corridors of power and that government would be both filled and directed by love

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

ACT

prayer - faith - action

We hope that this guide has helped to encourage and focus your prayers, and that the Lord will show you His heart over this aspect of our modern life.

Our desire is that you will confidently continue to hold this issue before the Lord on a regular basis. Be encouraged, your prayers change the course and destiny of our nation and affect the lives of many!

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

1 JOHN 5:14-15

We also hope that the Lord will be encouraging you to act on what you have seen and heard in prayer and that He will stir you to respond in ways which will be unique for you in the context of your own life.

There are a variety of possible responses we can all make.

- *Commit to continuing prayer for the issue of abortion.*
- *Help your family and friends to engage with this issue in prayer. Get together with friends and pray about this issue specifically.*
- *Speak to your church leaders and engage with this issue as a church.*
- *Find a local ministry working in this area and what support they need at this time.*
- *Connect with a national campaign to discover how you can speak out about the issue.*

**BE BLESSED WITH GOD'S
LOVE AND MERCY!**



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