

# Hot Topics

## Teen Pregnancy

### Leader Guide

**Theme:** Teen pregnancy outside of marriage is serious and challenging. Although society may promote that having babies at any time and at any age is glamorous, that isn't the case. Girls who face pregnancy have a completely new direction in their lives and they need support. Additionally, addressing the choices that led to sexual immorality is more important than focusing on the baby. The goals of this discussion are to open the door to a real-life subject, to understand how to respond to pregnant girls, and to focus on a relationship with God in order to avoid sexual immorality.

**Note to Leaders:** Be sensitive to girls in your group who may have been raised by single moms and to girls who may have already had a baby or an abortion.

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Without using any names, do you know anyone who's become pregnant as a teenager? If so, in what ways did it change her life? How did the people around her react? How did she feel? If not, how can you imagine that she felt or that things would change?

#### Read John 13:35.

- How should you respond to a friend if she tells you she is pregnant or considering abortion? (Listen, don't judge, support them on the whole journey) What do you think is feeling be feeling and how does that affect your response?
- What are the important steps she should take? (Tell parents, stay connected in church, decide not to have an abortion, talk through adoption options if necessary, keep positive friends, be healthy.)
- Why would some girls be jealous of a pregnant teen even though they knew their friend did not follow God's plan? What is the correct way to think about this emotion?

#### Read Psalm 50:15, Jeremiah 29:11–14; Isaiah 45:3.

- How do these verses give hope to a teen who has been pregnant or had an abortion? What is the truth and hope these girls need to know? How can you personally and practically demonstrate God's blessings to them?



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### Read 1 Corinthians 6:18–20.

As you move on to other aspects of this topic, think back to choices made before the pregnancy. The baby is not the issue as much as the choices of impurity and having sex outside of marriage.

- Does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross affect the decisions you make? If so, how? If your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, how does that affect the things you do with your body? Why could this verse be hard to follow considering today's society?

### Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

- What are some practical steps to avoid the actions that come before a pregnancy? Think through boundaries and accountability before you get in a pressured moment. How does this verse encourage you that you can live pure from this day forward and overcome any temptations?

### Read Psalm 86:5 and John 8:36.

- How do these verses of freedom and forgiveness give hope to anyone and everyone who has had sexual immorality, abuse, pregnancy, or abortion?

**Prayer:** God, You are the source for all healing and hope for girls who find themselves making decisions that have lifelong consequences. Help me to know what to say and how to show Your love to those who need it. Give girls wisdom in the area of sexual purity so they grow closer to You rather than closer to the ways of the world. Show girls Your blessings so matter what decisions they have made in the past as they follow after You from this day forward.

### For more information, see:

- *A Solitary Sorrow: Finding Healing and Wholeness After Abortion* by Teri Reisser, Random House, 2000.
- *A Season to Heal: Help and Hope for Those Working Through Post-Abortion Stress* by Luci Freed and Penny Salazar, Cumberland House, 1996.
- *Technical Virginity* by Hayley DiMarco, Hungry Planet, 2006. *And the Bride Wore White: Seven Secrets to Sexual Purity* by Dannah Gresh, Moody, 1999

For more topical Bible studies for teen girls, visit [www.myhealthychurch.com/teengirls](http://www.myhealthychurch.com/teengirls)

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