

## Section 2: Understanding the Issues

### STOP & REFLECT

Throughout this training, you will come across these **STOP & REFLECT** sections. You will be given time to pause and think about how these situations could happen to someone you know. This reflection is intended to deepen your understanding of unexpected pregnancies and hopefully provide insight into the importance of compassion in such a circumstance. You will not be asked to share or discuss any personal details about your reflections however you are welcome to share as much as you are comfortable.

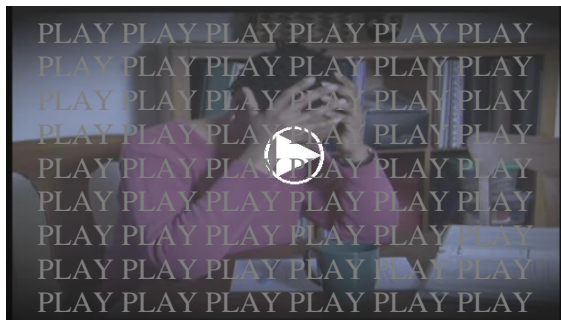
#### Read & think about the following factors influencing decision making

**Private news:** A pregnant woman considering abortion is not going to share this news with everyone. She will keep her fears to herself and she often struggling in the decision-making process. She is facing an incredible personal crisis, and is often not thinking clearly or logically.

**Feeling unwell:** Many times she is not able to sleep or eat as she considers what to do. She may be experiencing morning sickness, fatigue, and responding with greater emotions due to the hormonal changes in her pregnancy. She will feel the weight of emotional stress as all her options (abortion, adoption and parenting) sound impossible.

**Influencers:** If she has told the baby's father, a family member, or a trusted friend, she will be strongly influenced by their perspectives. If they are supportive, she will generally find the courage to have the baby. If they suggest abortion, she will often have her fears confirmed and choose to terminate the pregnancy through abortion. The baby's father, in particular, has a very influential role to play. When he is not clearly willing to take responsibility and provide for her and the child, her fears are magnified.

#### Watch & Reflect on a personal account of an abortion



Abortion is rarely an easy or a casual choice. It is a decision a woman makes that she hopes will free her from her all the consequences of an unwanted pregnancy. She is often surprised by her emotional struggles following an abortion. She anticipated that the abortion would return her back to her 'old self' - before she was pregnant. Now she carries an internal pain alone, and tries to shield herself from the painful and frightening memories of an act.

**Click on the thumbnail on the left to watch Michelle's story.**

#### Reflect on the following questions:

*What were her reasons?*

*Who were the people who influenced her decision?*

*How did the abortion affect her?*

*When did she feel the impact?*

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## What is God's perspective?

Read the following scriptures. Fill in the blanks.

***"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27***

***"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man." Genesis 9:6***

He made each man and woman in His own \_\_\_\_\_. He prohibits the shedding of innocent blood because \_\_\_\_\_.

***"Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD. But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death." Proverbs 8: 34-36***

***"But you did not listen to me," declares the LORD, "and you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves." Jeremiah 25:7***

Anytime any of us are tempted to sin, we are choosing to go against God's created order and cross the good boundaries that God established for our own protection and \_\_\_\_\_. Going against God's way will lead to death, and bring \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves.

***"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;<sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." James 1:13***

Sin starts when we accept lies rather than truth in our \_\_\_\_\_. Wrong thinking leads us to be enticed away by our own evil desires that give birth to sin. When sin is full-grown, it gives birth to death. Wrong thinking leads to wrong actions. Whenever someone is considering an abortion, they are inevitably embracing their own \_\_\_\_\_ that will lead them to self-harm and the death of a child made in the image of God.

### STOP & REFLECT

Think back to the woman in your life we asked you about. Who are the people in that person's life who would have influence over their decision? Write down as many people as you can think of and how you think they might impact her thinking.

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# Client Profiles

Listen & Think About **4 types of thinking** of the women we see on a regular basis. Let's consider their beliefs and the streams of thought that are **in conflict** with the truth found in the Bible.

## The Autonomous Woman

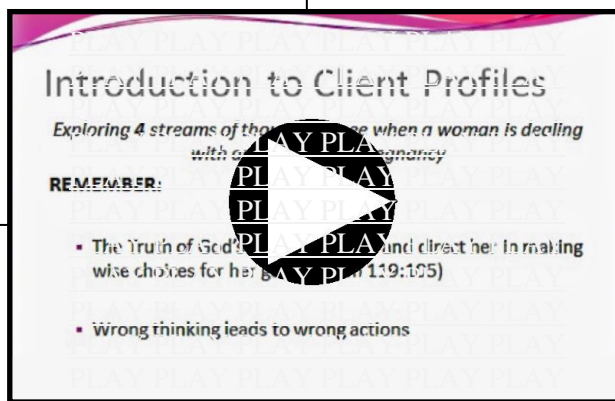
God's Truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Broken Woman

God's Truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Relativistic Woman

God's Truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Love at any Cost Woman

God's Truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

### STOP & REFLECT

Think back to the woman in your life we asked you about. Which profile(s) match her circumstance most? How does her partner's response influence her decision? What about her family? What truth would need to be impressed on her heart? What about yourself – which profile(s) do you match?

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