



# *making* LIFE DISCIPLES™

## **Q: What problem does *Making Life Disciples* (MLD) help solve?**

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*The courts can make abortion **illegal**, but only God through His church can make abortion **unthinkable**.*

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Abortion is not only a problem in communities—*out there*, it's a problem *in* the church. We partnered with Lifeway Research to do [a national survey](#) and found that nearly 4 in 10 women who have had abortions were regularly attending church at least once a month at the time of their first abortion. Further, research from the Guttmacher Institute reveals that 54% of women who have abortions identify as Christian. How do we address these percentages? Suburban, mega, urban, and rural churches and parishes are all essential and must be equipped to show compassion, hope, and help to the women and men represented by these stats. And this is exactly what *Making Life Disciples* does.

Of the 400,000 churches in America, [upwards of 10 percent average more than 1,000 members—that is 3-5 million people combined](#). Additionally, these mega-churches have a disproportionate number of seekers—those with a casual connection to Christianity that are seeking connection to God but with anonymity.

When the church does its part to serve the “4 out of 10,” then pregnancy centers are freed up to serve as domestic missionaries—that is, to serve the other 6 out of 10 women who do not regularly attend church and have abortions.

But the challenge in far too many communities, especially urban communities, is that:

- urban areas are home to many abortion clinics,
- urban areas see a disproportionately high number of abortions,
- urban areas generally contain very few life-affirming pregnancy centers. Churches, however, are.

Additionally, there are rural and suburban areas where pregnancy centers must close or consolidate for financial reasons. As disappointing as this is, it often becomes a door of opportunity for centers to facilitate and empower churches to step up and prepare to offer compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies.

making LIFE  
DISCIPLES

## **PREGNANT?**

We have people trained to offer confidential support through your toughest decisions.



## **Q: What specifically will *Making Life Disciples* help churches do?**

**MLD** works best as, first, a way to equip a select group of first-responders to offer compassion, hope, and help to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies and, second, as a way to raise the life-affirming IQ of the whole church—including seniors—related to abortion.

## **Q: If a woman in your congregation faced an unplanned pregnancy, to whom could she turn for support?**

The short answer—the one we pray and work toward—is “many gracious, equipped women and men in *her congregation* prepared to offer compassion, hope, and help.” This equipping takes an investment of time. The goal, however, is not to promote a program to implement, but to prepare lives (disciplers) to imitate. This woman will need love, grace, and discipleship. The man who got her pregnant will need this help, too.

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*At CARENET, we envision a church culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families.*

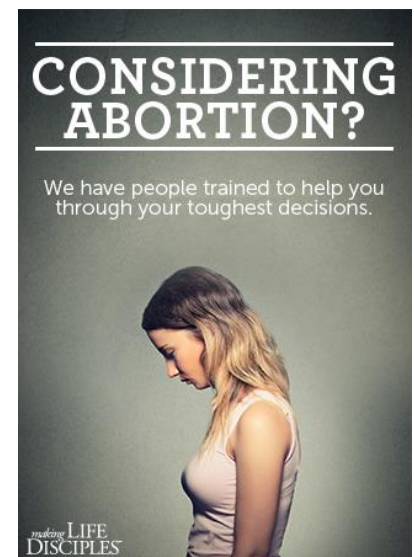
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## **Q: Why do churches and parishes need to offer compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to men and women considering abortion? Aren't pregnancy centers already doing that?**

While pregnancy centers are vital mission partners, abortion is not only a problem in our community, but it's a problem *in* the church. Again, nearly **4 in 10** women who have had abortions were regularly attending church at the time of their first abortion. When the church does its part to serve the “4 out of 10,” then pregnancy centers are freed up to serve as domestic missionaries—that is, to serve the other 6 out of 10 women who do not regularly attend church and have abortions.

As mentioned above, another issue is that many pregnancy care centers are not physically located in urban areas where a disproportionate number of abortions occur. Churches, however, are. Additionally, there are rural areas where pregnancy care centers must close or consolidate for financial reasons. As disappointing as this is, it often becomes a door of opportunity for centers to facilitate and empower churches to step up and prepare to offer compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies.

God calls His bride, the Church, to be on the front lines giving grace, love, and discipleship. Good para-church organizations, like pregnancy centers, then support local churches in what they are called to do. When it comes to the issue of unplanned pregnancy and abortion, however, we often have it flipped:



pregnancy centers on the front lines with a few good churches supporting them. Together we can change this narrative and share a new dream:

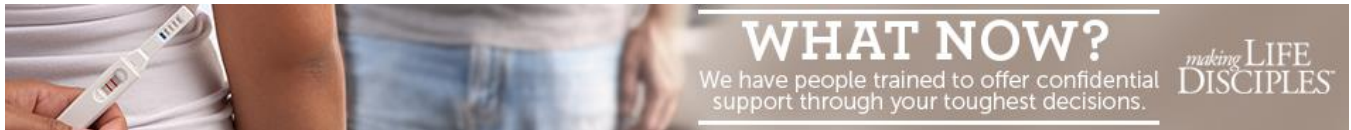
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*Thousands of local churches equipped and taking the lead as places where all facing pregnancy decisions are transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families. May God make it so!*

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**Q: What if a church does not have a relationship with a pregnancy center, or there is no center in their town?**

*Making Life Disciples* is *for* the church. It does not *require* partnership with a pregnancy center to implement, although it is recommended where possible.



**Q: Who in the church is most often interested in being a leader for *Making Life Disciples*?**

**MLD** is an excellent way to equip a select group of first-responders to offer compassion, hope, and help to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies.

Often, those that are most interested in **MLD** are those that are looking for a positive, non-political way to be pro-life that centers on grace and the gospel. We have also found that many who have had post-abortive experiences are drawn to this work.

**Q: Who in the church makes the decision to implement *Making Life Disciples*?**

Although this varies, usually it is a lay person with a passion for the life issue in consultation with their pastor or appropriate pastoral staff (e.g. a pastor over small groups and discipleship, etc.). We created [this document](#) "Preparing Your Church to Make Life Disciples" to help individuals with this.

**Q: Do you recommend that a pregnancy center staff member or volunteer become the trainer for their home church?**

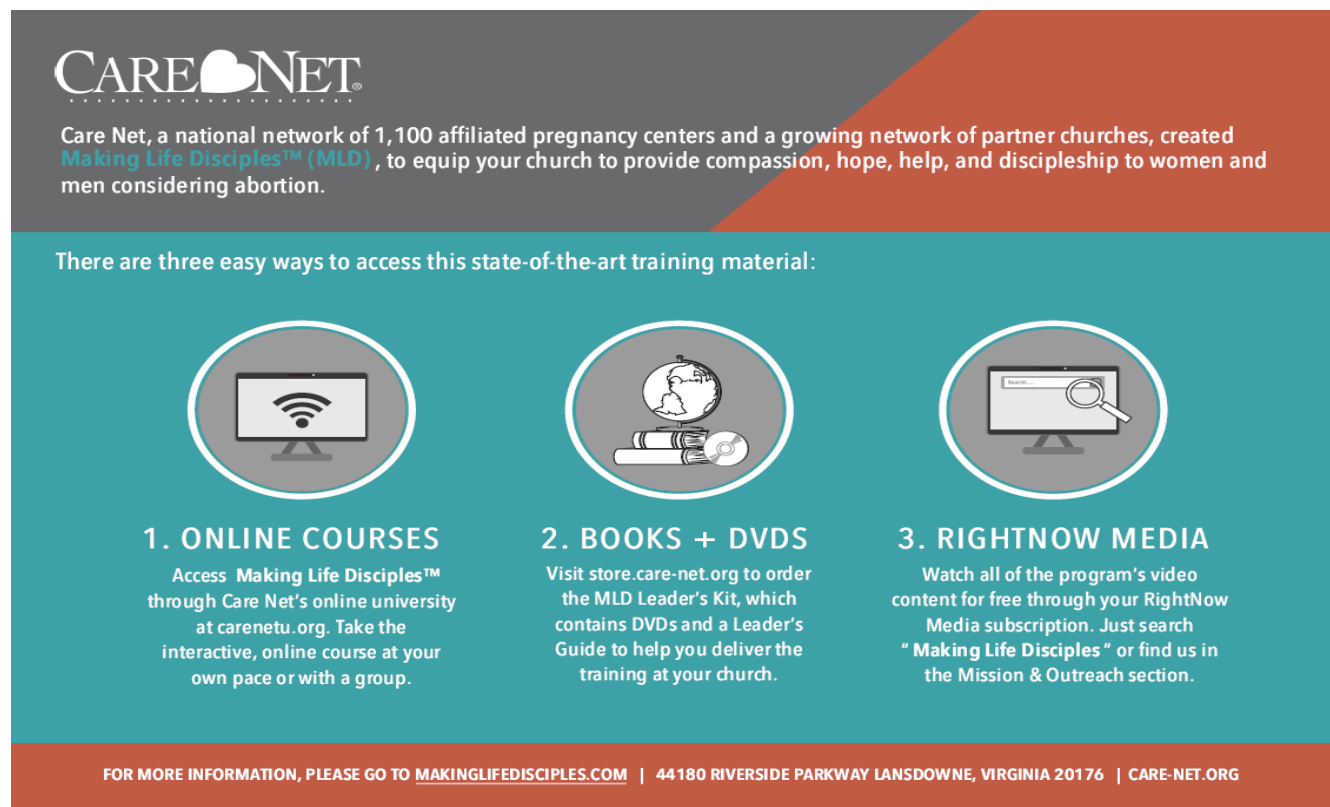
CARENET does not recommend this scenario.

The **goal** is to get the church to *own* the vision of *Making Life Disciples*. It is best when centers facilitate the conversation, empower, and support a leader inside the church.

Again, the key thing is for pregnancy centers to initiate and support the implementation of **MLD** in a way that allows the church to own the vision.

## **Q: What formats are available to participate in the *Making Life Disciples* program?**

The curriculum is currently available in three different formats:



The infographic features the Care Net logo at the top left, which includes a heart icon. Below the logo is a paragraph: "Care Net, a national network of 1,100 affiliated pregnancy centers and a growing network of partner churches, created **Making Life Disciples™ (MLD)**, to equip your church to provide compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to women and men considering abortion." Below this is a teal section with the heading "There are three easy ways to access this state-of-the-art training material:". Three circular icons represent the formats: 1. Online Courses (a computer monitor with a Wi-Fi symbol), 2. Books + DVDs (a globe on a stack of books with a DVD disc), and 3. RightNow Media (a computer monitor with a magnifying glass over a search bar). Each icon is followed by a numbered title and a descriptive paragraph. At the bottom of the infographic is a red banner with contact information: "FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO [MAKINGLIFEDISCIPLES.COM](http://MAKINGLIFEDISCIPLES.COM) | 44180 RIVERSIDE PARKWAY LANSDOWNE, VIRGINIA 20176 | [CARE-NET.ORG](http://CARE-NET.ORG)"

**CARE NET**

Care Net, a national network of 1,100 affiliated pregnancy centers and a growing network of partner churches, created **Making Life Disciples™ (MLD)**, to equip your church to provide compassion, hope, help, and discipleship to women and men considering abortion.

There are three easy ways to access this state-of-the-art training material:

- 1. ONLINE COURSES**  
Access **Making Life Disciples™** through Care Net's online university at [carenetu.org](http://carenetu.org). Take the interactive, online course at your own pace or with a group.
- 2. BOOKS + DVDS**  
Visit [store.care-net.org](http://store.care-net.org) to order the MLD Leader's Kit, which contains DVDs and a Leader's Guide to help you deliver the training at your church.
- 3. RIGHTNOW MEDIA**  
Watch all of the program's video content for free through your RightNow Media subscription. Just search "**Making Life Disciples**" or find us in the Mission & Outreach section.

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## **Q: How long does it take to go through *Making Life Disciples*?**

**Making Life Disciples (MLD)** is designed to be completed in eight, 2 to 3-hour sessions. We also have a [chart](#) that gives guidance on how to run **MLD** as it is designed (2 to 3-hour sessions), as well as with 1.5-hour and 1-hour time formats.

## **Q: Who should be the contact for the church's *Making Life Disciples* leader at the local pregnancy center?**

This will vary based on the size of the center. From the church's perspective, however, the most important thing is that the pregnancy center contact would be someone who is reliable, accessible, and understands the vision of **Making Life Disciples**.

## **Q: Does **CARE NET** support *Making Life Disciples* leaders in any special way?**

Yes, we have ongoing technical support. In fact, Dr. Greg Austen, Care Net's Executive Director of Church Outreach & Engagement and Gary Springer, Care Net's Director of Church Outreach & Engagement (West Coast), are seasoned pastors and are accessible and dedicated to serving all

those who are implementing *Making Life Disciples*. You can reach Greg at [gausten@care-net.org](mailto:gausten@care-net.org) or Gary at [gspringer@care-net.org](mailto:gspringer@care-net.org).

## Q: Why doesn't MLD have more discipleship content in it for men and women facing an unplanned pregnancy?

Most churches have established systems or a process of discipleship in place (i.e. resources from the *Navigators*, something like Saddleback's baseball diamond, *Celebrate Recovery*, Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*, parenting or marriage courses, etc.) but they don't have an on-ramp to that discipleship for someone in an unplanned pregnancy. **MLD** gives them that on-ramp.

## Q: Are there any free online courses/resources available? (see: <https://www.care-net.org/free-resources>)



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**PRO-LIFE 101** raises your Pro-Life IQ and strengthens your commitment to save unborn lives. Your free 6-week course will renew your dedication to protecting unborn life and equip you to engage with a pro-abortion culture and show compassion to those at risk for abortion. Each 15-minute session features knowledge learned from Care Net's more than 40 years of serving women and men at over 1,100 affiliated pregnancy centers across North America. You will learn about the history of abortion in America, the spiritual consequences of abortion, permission-based care, and more! (**note:** This course is **NOT** intended for professional training for pregnancy center workers and volunteers.)

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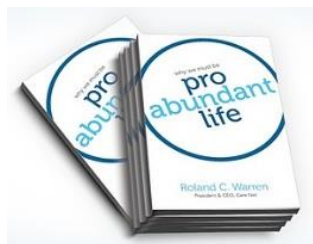


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**Choosing Life** raises your Pro-life EQ, emotional intelligence, and empowers you to help someone choose life. You know that abortion grieves the heart of God, but how can you help someone considering abortion choose life? This nine-week course will teach you how to understand the mindset of a woman or man considering abortion so you can communicate truth to them with grace and compassion—raising your pro-life EQ (emotional intelligence). (**note:** This course is **NOT** intended for professional training for pregnancy center workers and volunteers.)

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## Q. What does it mean to be Pro Abundant Life?



Download this free eBook to find out.

## Q: What is the difference between *Embrace Grace* and *Making Life Disciples*?

- *Making Life Disciples* is an equipping resource to prepare believers for outreach to women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy. *Making Life Disciples*, then, prepares a congregation to love and disciple girls through a program like *Embrace Grace*.
- *Embrace Grace* is for girls who are pregnant. *Making Life Disciples* is for those that will offer compassion, hope, and help to those girls.
- *Embrace Grace* is a great **off-ramp** from *Making Life Disciples*.
- *Making Life Disciples* is the **gateway** to a program like *Embrace Grace*.

## Q: How does **MLD** fit into Stephen Ministries?

**MLD** fits perfectly with the vision or under the umbrella of Stephen Ministries. We suggest some or all Stephen ministers watch the **MLD** sessions. That way they (or select, designated individuals) can add it to their ministry focus and skill-set.



For more information visit:

[www.makinglifedisciples.com](http://www.makinglifedisciples.com)

