

# CHURCHES FOR LIFE

NOURISHING CHURCHES AS GOSPEL-DRIVEN CHAMPIONS OF LIFE

IDEA	DESCRIPTION AND HOW TO DO IT
<i>Life-affirming sermon</i>	An entire sermon on a life-related topic from the Scripture.
<i>Bulletin Inserts</i>	Communicate life-affirming information and service opportunities. Create your own or search the internet for balanced, Christ-centered inserts you can use.
<i>Lifesaver's Candy</i>	As people leave the worship service, hand them “Lifesavers” brand candy with life-affirming Scriptures and/or message attached.
<i>Responsive Reading/Liturgy</i>	See samples here.
<i>Agency Testimonies</i>	Allow those who serve at life-affirming agencies share stories God’s work in their lives in the life arena (e.g. someone who serves at a crisis pregnancy center can share stories about her service and encourage others to get involved).
<i>Chaste Teen Testimony</i>	Have a teen from your church talk (during SS or in worship) about his/her chastity and love for sexual purity.
<i>Dignify Those With Special Needs</i>	Get permission from honorees first. Praise God publicly for their lives. Cite their value and expose the sinfulness of euthanasia for infirm people who, like all people, are made in God’s image and therefore have intrinsic worth.
<i>Dignify Older Adults</i>	Get permission from honorees first. Praise God publicly for their lives. Cite their value and expose the sinfulness of euthanasia for senior people who, like all people, are made in God’s image and therefore have intrinsic worth.
<i>Personal Testimonies</i>	Real, live, personal stories told by a person (esp. from your own congregation) from the pulpit have major impact, whether it has to do

	with sexual integrity, abortion, post-abortive recovery, adoption, etc. The person giving the testimony must be coached and timed beforehand.
<i>Bless Pregnant Moms and Their Unborn Children</i>	It's best to choose women from your own congregation to participate in this. Ask them to come forward to be blessed and prayed for by a church leader. Be sensitive to families that are struggling with infertility as you pray.
<i>Life-Affirming Agency Update</i>	Invite CFL or other life-affirming agencies to give an overview of their ministry and opportunities for service. These updates should be accompanied by a way to get connected to the agency.
<i>Combined Sunday School</i>	Convene all SS classes together to hear one or more special life-affirming speakers (CFL, agencies, etc.). This gives broad exposure and helps your people hear the same message – building unity.
<i>White Roses for Teens</i>	Hand a white rose (or carnation) to all teens in the church as a witness to the beauty of sexual purity. Accompany with a pastoral prayer or insight into God's desires and the meaning of the white flower for teens.
<i>Roses for the Unborn</i>	Place roses on a table in front of the sanctuary signifying the following: white (children lost to abortion), red (children born in the congregation), yellow (children lost to miscarriage). Explain the roses to the congregation and pray as appropriate.
<i>Pulpit Announcements</i>	Use sparingly as most churches guard pulpit time carefully. Stick to time-sensitive calls to action or information. Be sure to not only announce anti-abortion ideas/events! Be holistically life affirming.
<i>Visual Testimony of Children Killed by Abortion</i>	Line up people of respective ages, 1 for each year since 1973, in the front of the sanctuary. Place a sign around each child with the # of children aborted in their birth year. Play a song, read Scripture, or pray as children come up front one by one. Typically, this is followed by a congregational confession of sin.
<i>Visual Testimony of Children Killed by Abortion with Tolling of a Bell</i>	Same as above, but line all children up front and then as a bell slowly tolls, have them kneel one at a time from oldest to youngest. This is a very powerful testimony to the reality of abortion and lives lost. Typically, this is followed by a congregational confession of sin.

<i>Moment of Silent Prayer</i>	Introduce with Scripture and pastoral comment – an extended time for the church body and individuals to talk with the Lord about sin, the value of life, and their own sins or hearts on these issues. Silence is powerful.
<i>Moment of Silent Prayer with Heartbeat</i>	During silent prayer, play sound of a heartbeat. Find sound by doing a video/audio web search for “unborn child heartbeat.”
<i>Ultrasound Video</i>	Fit with comments and Scriptures about humanity of unborn child. Contact life-affirming agencies for videos. video, or search the web for “ultrasound” video.
<i>Special Music</i>	Playing special life-related hymns, worship songs, or music (esp. if written by someone in your congregation) about life can have a powerful teaching impact and engage the congregation.
<i>Tolling of Bell with Scripture</i>	Toll a bell once for each year since Roe v. Wade (1973), and after each toll, read some life-related Scripture. Or, run a Powerpoint presentation with a slide for each year citing the number of children killed by abortion.
<i>Special Offering</i>	Designate part of your regular collection or take a special collection for CFL, a life-affirming agency, or a specific life-affirming initiative. Invite a representative from the agency to speak. It's best to focus the offering on a concise initiative (e.g. campaign to buy an ultrasound for a pregnancy center).
<i>Corporate Confession of Sin</i>	Pastor leads congregation in an out-loud confession of sin, re: life-affirming inactivity, sexual sin, etc. Click for Scriptures or for a sample liturgies that includes confession.
<i>Slide Show of Children</i>	Produce a slide show or video of your church’s infants and children as a positive testimony to the joy of life and children. This takes several weeks of advance prep. It’s best to use footage/photos of children from your church’s nursery, Sunday School. Play music, maybe a lullaby, while the video or show plays. Interweave Scripture.
<i>Slide Show of Teens</i>	Produce a slide show or video of your church’s youth/teens under the theme of sexual integrity. This is a powerful positive testimony to the joy young life and purity. This takes several weeks of advance prep. It’s best to use footage/photos of your own church’s youth. Play upbeat music while the video or show plays. Interweave Scripture.

<p><i>Live Ultrasound</i></p>	<p>Project live ultrasound image in front of your church as it's being done from a private location. This is a window into "the secret place" (Psa 139). Read Scriptures that affirm life, especially unborn life and motherhood, while the image is projected. It's best to perform this ultrasound on a pregnant woman from your congregation.</p>
<p><i>Hard Truth Video or Other Abortion-Telling Video</i></p>	<p>These extremely graphic videos show the reality of abortion and take away any objection to its horror or sinfulness. These videos are raw truth. There are several videos like this you can use. But they all <b>must be accompanied by explicit and repetitive warnings ahead of time as to their content.</b> People must be given a chance to leave the room.</p>