

AN UNPLANNED

Pregnancy

Even if you've always believed that life is precious and that babies deserve the chance to live, experiencing an unplanned pregnancy yourself can be overwhelming. You find that it's more complex than just a yes or no decision. All the things that are at stake, added to the hormones that are likely affecting your emotions, can leave you feeling confused and afraid. What should you consider as you try to decide the best options for both you and this new life?

Consideration #1: The Gift of Life

Every human life has value regardless of the circumstances. That goes for you and your baby. You were both created in the image of God and were fearfully and wonderfully made. All of your days were written in God's book before one of them came to be (Psalm 139:13-16). Even though you don't know your future or the future of this baby's life, your decisions affect both. Pray that God will help you make choices that preserve His best for both of you - to allow you both to experience the full life He offers. As Jesus said, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10:10).

Consideration #2: The Responsibilities Ahead

Choosing to give birth to your baby is a heroic step, but that's just the beginning. Now you must decide who will raise this child. There is great responsibility involved in caring for a child in both the short- and long-term. Being a parent means learning to lay down your life as a servant for your child (Philippians 2:3-7). Many mothers choose to take on this responsibility alone. Single mothers usually find, however, that the responsibilities are greater than they ever imagined and there will be a need for additional support.

If you hope to raise this child yourself, you should pray about where the child's father fits in. A father can make all the difference in a child's life - for better or worse. Often, an unplanned pregnancy can uncover a man's true character and make it clear whether or not he has the courage and discipline to be a good husband or father. There are times, however, when the father of your child can still become the man you and your child need. With dependency on the Lord, a lot of work and Biblical counsel, it's possible to make an unplanned family work.

Consideration #3: The Hope of Redemption

God is in the business of turning situations that feel like a mess into "happily ever after" stories. Having your child's father commit to the long-term responsibilities of marriage and parenting can provide a hopeful story of redemption. When that's not the case, however, the best hope for your child may be adoption by parents who are prepared for the responsibilities ahead. There can be great heartache in holding your new baby and then handing it over to someone else, but it's often the best choice you can make for your child's future. It also can be an answer to prayer for the couple who hopes to adopt children. If the best option is to raise your child as a single parent, check out the *Single Parenting* resource and consider who can serve as your support system.

Know that you are not alone in this season. WRBC is here to come alongside you through prayer, mentoring, and support. Regardless of your decision, we are here to support and encourage you.

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GOING FURTHER

RESOURCES

BraveLove

BraveLove is a pro-adoption movement dedicated to changing the perception of adoption by acknowledging birth moms for their brave decision. Visit bravelove.org for videos and resources.

A Bump in Life: True Stories of Hope and Courage During an Unplanned Pregnancy by Amy Ford

Will help anyone going through or connected with this situation move from feelings of loneliness, shame, and worry to the far more lasting joy that is God's redemptive blessing of a child.

WATERLOO ROAD SUPPORT

Hope Pregnancy Center Edmond

Hope Pregnancy Center desires to empower women so they can make the best decision when considering your pregnancy options. Contact them at 405.330.0200 or thinkimpregnant.org.

Childhood Ministries

WRBC desires to come alongside parents in their effort to instill faith in children by offering a range of programs including age-graded Connect Groups, Midweek, camps, and much more. For more information, visit waterloroad.org/ministry/childhood/ or contact Emily Townley at emily@waterloroad.org.

Connect Groups

Connect groups are available on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Connect groups provide a time to study God's Word while fellowshiping with other adults who are in the same life stages.

Biblical Counseling

WRBC is currently building a team of biblical counselors who feel called to help apply Scripture's truth to life's tough situations. Go to waterloroad.org/counseling to get help.

Professional Counseling

Contact the church offices at 405.341.9024 for a list of Christ-centered professional counselors.

