

to point you to him because he loves you, wants the best for you and longs for a personal relationship with you.

We all fall short of God's perfect but unattainable standards all the time. Anything from the tiniest act of unkindness, through to mass rape and genocide – and everything in between, including abortion, stops us from being perfect like God. God's perfection includes his justice, which is white-hot. As a result there must be hell to pay.

The hope

Yet his perfection also includes his love and kindness and mercy, which is why he sent his Son into the world. Jesus came to sacrifice himself for us on the cross. He came to pay for our moral failure, in our place, that we might not have to. We broke God's law, but Jesus paid the penalty. And God then raised Jesus back to life to be the loving, protecting, powerful King for all who come to him.

By coming to this God in prayer saying sorry for our faults and by trusting in Jesus' death, we can have all of our failures written off forever. We can have permanent cleansing. We can start an intimate friendship with God as our loving, accepting Father, no longer only a terrifyingly righteous Judge. We can have eternal life, in which all of our bruises and brokenness will be healed forever.

Please, come to God with this prayer right now. Then check out the resources below to help you on your new adventure. You have an incredible future ahead of you. God bless!

Useful websites:

<http://www.lifeessentials.org.uk/>
<https://www.christianityexplored.org/>

Useful Books:

Mere Christianity
Newness of life

I would like to know more about Jesus Christ.

- Please send me a free DVD about the life of Jesus.
- Please send me a free copy of John's Gospel (a book of the Bible that describes Jesus' life.)
- Please send me a free booklet on how to become a Christian.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



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Hope!



Life can hurt

Let's be honest. Our lives can be bruised and broken by such things as frustrated plans, destroyed dreams, financial hardship, depression, anxiety, exhaustion, illness, discrimination (especially against women), bullying, abuse, rape – the list goes on. Maybe you're struggling to be a survivor of some of that right now.

If you're holding this booklet, it's possible that you're either pregnant or have been in the past. If so, your pregnancy (or ex-pregnancy) might have been the context for this tragic truth that life can hurt.

If you've taken the decision to terminate your pregnancy (or are thinking about it), then you've probably also had the

extra burden, on top of everything else, of people being 'on your case'. You may have experienced people condemning you, friends not being there for you, family pressurising you or healthcare professionals not being honest about all the options available to you.

The truth

Well, the truth is that you are unbelievably precious. You are valuable. You have dignity. You have the freedom to make your own choices. And, to be frank, you are a miracle! Because regardless of what you choose (or chose) to do with your pregnancy, the wonders of modern science show it to be a pretty amazing phenomenon.

In 2005, National Geographic made an award-winning 90-minute documentary called 'In the womb'. It used cutting-edge 4D ultrasound imagery to show what happens from the moment a sperm connects with an egg.

By 21 days, there's a heartbeat. By 40 days, the baby's brainwaves can be measured. By 6 weeks, she responds to movement and by 8 weeks she can suck her thumb. By 12 weeks, her features include fingerprints, fingernails, eyelids, ears, toes, all essential organs, and blood cells being produced in her liver! And by 20 weeks, she has her adult taste buds, can swim, kick, turn, do somersaults, and recognise her mother's voice. She can even dream, as we know from her rapid eye movement during sleep!

So when did this little person become a person? To quote the Professor of Genetics at the University of Descartes in Paris, Dr Jérôme LeJeune, 'After fertilisation has taken place, a new human has come into being. This is no longer a matter of taste or opinion. Every individual has a very neat beginning, at conception.' Or as Professor Micheline Mathews-Roth of the Harvard University Medical School states, '*It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception.*'

The problem

Which makes the abortion you had, or are thinking of, a bit tricky.

It explains that twinge of guilt you feel over ending the little person inside you. Some might have forcefully insisted to you over and over that you're only getting rid of some 'tissue', yet that twinge of guilt won't go away. Not quite – at least not for good. That twinge isn't 'nothing'. It's your conscience, hardwired into you as a moral compass. It was put there by your Creator. He put it in you to give you an insight into what he's like – wonderfully but scarily perfect, unlike any of us! But he also put it there

