

# **UNPLANNED PREGNANCY**

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It's a jarring shift for a woman to go from processing a relationship that has become sexual to trying to figure out what to do about a newly conceived life. 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. "I have come that they might have life to the fullest" (John 10:10).

### **CONSIDERATION #2: The responsibilities ahead**

If you've chosen to give birth to your baby, you have already taken a heroic first step. Now you must decide who will raise this child. There is great responsibility involved in caring for a child. 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. 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 a man who has been irresponsible about sex outside of marriage can still become the man you and your child need. With commitment and Biblical counsel, even an unplanned family can possibly work.

### **CONSIDERATION #3: The hope of redemption**

God is able to turn situations that feel like a mess into beautiful stories of redemption. Having your child's father commit to the long-term responsibilities of marriage and parenting can provide a hopeful story of redemption. And yet sometimes, when that is not the case, 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.

### **EASTVIEW NEXT STEP: Advice From Someone Who's Been There**

Contact Eastview members Zach and Ashley Williams: [awilliams1118@yahoo.com](mailto:awilliams1118@yahoo.com)

### **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:**

- Pregnancy Resource Center, Normal IL. 309-454-5433 or [www.hopeforafuture.com](http://www.hopeforafuture.com)
- OptionLine.org
- **Brave Love** by Lisa Leonard
- **A Bump in Life: True Stories of Hope and Courage During an Unplanned Pregnancy** by Amy Ford