



Worksheet: “Jacquie’s Story: Post-Abortion Syndrome”

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways Jacquie tried to cope with her depression from her abortions?
Example: She took alcohol, had multiple sex partners, overworked herself.
2. Why do you think Jacquie would even consider ending her own child’s life? Why would that be connected to her abortions?
3. Why would Jacquie decide to leave her job even though she was making good money? What moment do you think it was that she realized she finally needed to quit working in the abortion industry?
4. Imagine being in Jacquie’s shoes if you have previously or currently support abortion. What do you imagine it would be like to get a call from your own sister asking you to perform an abortion?
5. Once she realized she was not alone and had support, Jacquie made a decision to give up her job even after being offered a promotion. She also explained how powerful it was for her to hear about another woman on TV (Aketch Aimba) who had also had abortions and had experienced many of the same negative consequences as Jacquie. Knowing this and now knowing Jacquie’s story, how might you more sensitively approach the abortion issue and help other post-abortive women?
6. What are some ways people might offend or further hurt women who have had abortions when defending their own stance on life?
Example: Calling women “murderers” and further shaming them, etc.
7. What are some ways you think you could stand for life while also being compassionate toward women who have chosen abortion in the past and who may now be suffering the consequences and regret?
8. What might have happened to Jacquie if there had been no program to support her?
9. How will you approach abortion and standing for life differently after watching Jacquie’s story? How might you effectively share her story with others?
10. Are there any programs near you that both help women either choose life over abortion or that help women heal from abortion? Could you volunteer to help? If you can’t find a program, could you start one? How could helping women who have had an abortion help prevent other abortions?

Role Play #1

Have someone act as a pro-life advocate and someone role play as Jacquie after her 4th abortion (having not yet received help and still working in the abortion clinic).

Pretend that you are a pro-life advocate standing outside a Marie Stopes abortion clinic to protest what the clinic is doing. Imagine Jacquie gets out of her car and is approaching the door to the clinic for a day of work and she passes you. What would you say?

Example: You could ask her how she is doing that day, if she has a minute to talk, if she would be willing to tell you why her work is important to her and...

Role Play #2

Imagine you have a friend who is pro-choice who finds out you are pro-life.

Pro choicer: “Pro-life people don’t care about the life of the baby after they are born. They only care about babies in the womb. They don’t care about the woman, her pain, her future prospects or whether she lives or dies. It’s so ironic.

Pro-lifer: *(What would you say? Use your own words ☺)*

Example: I am actually pro-life primarily because I believe abortion hurts women. We might be more on the same page than you think we are.

Pro-choice: We are definitely not on the same page. There are cases where abortion is absolutely necessary!

Pro-lifer: *(What would you say? Use your own words ☺)*

Examples:

- *Well, why don’t we try to find some common ground first then? Is that alright? Do you believe that a woman should be able to abort her baby for any reason at any stage of pregnancy? If not, at what stage or for what reasons should it be allowed? Did you know that it doesn’t matter the stage of pregnancy or the reason a woman aborts her child? There can be lasting negative impacts for her.*
- *Are you aware of the physical- and mental-health consequences that post-abortive women experience? That many times can be worse, if not always worse than the consequences of delivering their child?*
- *May I show you a video of a woman who has had many abortions and has worked in an abortion clinic that shares her experience? Would you be open to seeing another side of this topic you may have not thought about before? (Send them the link to Jacquie’s video <https://vimeo.com/560663013Access>.)*