

Infertility - We Are Not Alone

Stephen Ministry's
Sunday Evening
Seminar
March 14, 2010

Why Are We Here?

- Recognize that Infertility creates a unique form of suffering
- To Combat Isolation by Sharing our Stories
- Hebrews 3: 12-13

Infertility – What is it?

- A condition in which a couple has problems conceiving, or getting pregnant, after **one year** of regular sexual intercourse without using any birth control methods. Infertility can be caused by a problem with the man or the woman, or both.
- A woman who can conceive but continues to have miscarriages.

By the Numbers

- 7.3 million woman 15-44 years of age who are infertile
- 2.1 million married women 15-44 years of age who are infertile
- Another 1 million+ married men who are infertile

Medical Options and Moral Dilemmas

- 7.3 Million woman between 15-44 years of age have had infertility services
- Advice
- Medication
- Surgery
- IVF

Examples from God's Word

- Sarah: Genesis 16:1, 18:11
- Rebekah: Genesis 25:21
- Rachel: Genesis 30
- Hannah: 1 Samuel 1:4-11
- Manoah's wife: Judges 13
- Elizabeth: Luke 1:5-25

Encouragement from God's Word

- Isaiah 54:1
- Psalm 113

Testimonies

Ann Marie & Mike Tipton
Beth & Todd Mathew
Grace & Jerry Weniger

Coping with Infertility

- Acknowledge Your Emotions - Grief, despair, envy, failure, stress on marriage
- Deal with Depression
- Make wise Decisions - Weigh in with your religious and moral considerations before you make a decision
- Seek a Support Network
- Prayer and the Redemptive Story

Getting Involved

- You would like to minister to or be ministered by someone concerning infertility
- Sign-up sheet
- Call Stephen Ministry CareLine
 - 433-3051 Ext. 180
- Contact Stephen Minister Directly
 - John Wickenheiser
 - 434-7070
 - john.solidrock@yahoo.com

Resources

- The Allure of Hope by Jan Meyers
- Without Child - A Compassionate Look at Infertility by Martha Stout
- Empty Arms by Pam Vredevelt
- Empty Womb, Aching Heart by Marlo Schalesky
- Stepping Stones – www.bethany.org/step
- Stephen Ministry Website

C.H. Spurgeon

- Twins, Wife Handicapped
- "It would be a very sharp and trying experience to me to think that I have an affliction which God never sent me, that the bitter cup was never filled by his hand, that my trials were never measured out by him, nor sent to me by his arrangement of their weight and quantity"
- "I am afraid that all the grace that I have got of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours, might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable"