

# Four Practical Ways Churches Can Help Those Facing Infertility

Church can be painful for couples who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. They often feel excluded from the typical family- and child-centric programs and events. As a church leader, you're uniquely positioned to care for these hurting couples. Here are some ideas for how to support your church family members who get left out of the "baby club."

## 1) Broaden your vision for women

- a) Being a mother isn't a woman's ultimate calling. Direct the focus to a believer's greatest commands to love God and love people.
- b) Talk about other roles on Sundays and offer classes or discipleship groups for exploring different spiritual gifts and areas of service.

## 2) Honor all women on Mother's Day

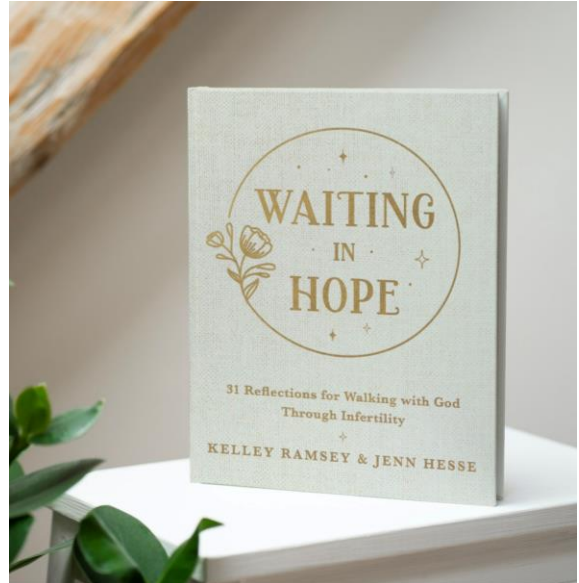
- a) Don't make a huge display of moms vs. not-moms.
- b) Acknowledge that this day can be hard for many women.
- c) Emphasize the work of spiritual mothering that all women can fulfill.

## 3) Plan and pray

- a) Host a service of memorial and lament to honor the losses of miscarriage, infertility, and similar grief.
- b) Announce upcoming baby/child dedication or baptism services to give couples time to prepare.
- c) Schedule prayer times for couples who are waiting for children.

## 4) Give support

- a) Take the initiative or encourage someone you know to form an infertility support group. Waiting in Hope Ministries offers curriculum and leader guide material.
- b) If you have a resource library, stock books written specifically for those facing infertility, infant loss, and childlessness – including Waiting in Hope the book.



*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." – Galatians 6:2*