

OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE

TO help women in abusive relationships know how much they are loved and valued by God

BY providing support, encouragement and fellowship

TO point women to Jesus as their source of healing, strength and love

BY correcting misconceptions and distortions of scripture that contribute to women staying enslaved by another's sin of abuse

TO increase a woman's feeling of self-worth

BY directing her to focus on her worth in Christ rather than how her abuser defines her

TO provide a safe place for women to heal and become strong so they no longer feel they have to tolerate abuse

BY walking alongside them and by providing information on domestic abuse

TO serve the local church community

BY providing pastors with information and support to help families caught in the destructive cycle of domestic violence

TO facilitate the formation of support groups in local churches to provide women access to a group in their own community

BY training group leaders and providing ongoing assistance and collaboration

TO complement and co-ordinate with existing domestic violence services

BY referring women to their services and providing information about them in our website

TO educate the greater community

BY raising the level of awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence

Doing all of the above from a Biblical perspective

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police Emergency Number
911

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-SAFE

National Dating Abuse Helpline
866-331-9474

Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center
Serving Cuyahoga County
24 Hour Hotline
216-391-HELP (4357)

Genesis House
Serving Lorain County
24 Hour Hotline
866-213-1188

Battered Women's Shelter of Medina County
24 Hour Hotline
877-414-1344

Battered Women's Shelter of Summit County
24 Hour Hotline
888-395-4357



PO Box 451221
Westlake, Ohio 44145
440-281-7136
www.abigail-ministries.org

Is it Abuse?



Abigail Ministries
Empowering Abused Women ~ Educating Communities

The Bible tells us the story of Abigail, who with great strength and dignity, did what she had to do to save her family.

I Samuel 25:1-38

We are a ministry dedicated to bringing hope, healing and empowerment to women who find themselves in abusive relationships.

Abuse destroys lives and families. Abigail Ministries will help you learn to be strong when dealing with the sin of abuse. Violence of any kind is never an appropriate response in relationships. God did not create you to be abused. Abuse can take many forms including verbal, emotional, financial, spiritual and physical. Don't allow misconceptions or distortions of Scripture to keep you in an abusive relationship. God does not want His daughters to submit to abuse because being in an abusive relationship prevents you from fulfilling God's plan for your life.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone: my hope comes from Him.

Psalms 62:5

Abigail Ministries provides Support Groups for women to bring them hope and healing through Jesus and educates them about the issues of domestic violence. The Support Groups are a place of loving support where women learn to have healthy boundaries and to understand God's view of marriage.

If you know someone who can use our help, please give this information to them.

For more information, call us at (440) 281-7136 or visit our website at www.abigail-ministries.org

Domestic Violence is a repeated pattern of behavior one person uses to gain power and control over another. Abuse occurs to women in all racial and ethnic groups, in all socioeconomic levels and in all faiths. An abused woman is just as likely to be a successful professional or the woman sitting next to you in church as a woman on welfare.

ARE YOU BEING ABUSED?

Does he:

- ~ Criticize you constantly?
- ~ Call you names?
- ~ Intimidate you to get what he wants?
- ~ Tell you that he is head of the household and, therefore, you have to obey him?
- ~ Misquote scriptures in the Bible in order to justify his actions?
- ~ Belittle your dreams, hopes, and plans?
- ~ Isolate you from your family and/or friends?
- ~ Tell your children that they don't have to respect you or listen to you?
- ~ Threaten you verbally or with a weapon?
- ~ Make you account for every penny that you spend?
- ~ Tell you that if he can't have you, no one will?
- ~ Treat you roughly – grab, pinch, push, shove, or hit you?
- ~ Embarrass you in front of others?
- ~ Make you feel ashamed, afraid, or crazy?
- ~ Make you perform acts that are demeaning to you?
- ~ Tell you you'll never make it without him?
- ~ Blame you for his anger?

Are you:

- ~ Afraid to disagree with him?
- ~ Constantly trying to be a better wife or girlfriend?
- ~ Always trying to find ways to keep him calm?
- ~ Always living in fear of what he will do?
- ~ Afraid of his looks, voice or gestures?
- ~ Staying with him because you are afraid to leave?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you may be in an abusive relationship. There is hope. Help and information is available through any of the Domestic Violence Resources listed on the back of this brochure and on our website. In addition, help is available through our Ministry. You can visit one of our support groups to learn more about domestic and scriptural abuse, and be supported, loved, and empowered through the love of Jesus Christ.

