

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## *Sarah's Choice*

WHEN *Life*  
BECOMES *Reality*



Awarded Dove Foundation's  
Family Seal of Approval

"#1 PRO-LIFE FILM  
IN AMERICA"  
-TOM SAAB CFFA

# PURE FLIX



## **About The Film**

Sarah's Choice, from Pure Flix Entertainment, is a story about a young woman who has a decision to make that will impact the rest of her life. Sarah Collins is on the elevator of success, a junior account executive at a major advertising agency, poised to attain her dream of an executive corner office. There's only one thing that's going to keep her from getting it—an unexpected pregnancy. Sarah is now faced with a moral and career ending choice. She is torn between her friends and co-workers insisting that it is her body and her right not to keep the baby—the life that is growing inside her. In the midst of her turmoil a mysterious stranger foretells the coming of three nocturnal visions that will challenge her heart.

## **About The Discussion Guide**

Sarah's Choice is the touching story of a young woman whose plans for her life suddenly take an interesting turn. News of a pregnancy might normally be something for a woman to celebrate but the revelation leaves Sarah stunned and confused. This determined woman is on the cusp of achieving her career dreams. The realization that she is pregnant seems like a sentence and leaves her looking for answers on how to move forward. The choices seem stark have the baby and risk career suicide and financial ruin...or don't have the baby and compromise the moral and spiritual teachings of her youth. Along the way, Sarah sees that her choices are important and that trusting God in the process will give her the strength to handle this tough situation and envision a future for herself that is not gloom and doom. As we follow the road to Sarah's final choice, we see how God uses this time of uncertainty to soften her heart, to build her faith and to prepare her for the new "vision" that He has for her. We suggest that you watch the film in its entirety, and then follow with the discussion and Bible readings. Related scriptures are provided for a more in-depth study of the themes. Also included are questions based on key concepts from the film. Use these questions to further enhance your discussions. As we follow the story of Sarah's dilemma, we'll learn about how "God knows what's best for us better than we do".

## **Heart Challenge #1** **“A BEND IN THE ROAD”**

Sarah Collins has worked to build the life she thinks will best serve her needs. She's reached a point where the efforts she's put forth thus far will finally pay off, allowing her to buy a bigger house, a better car and have more security. She's got things pretty well mapped out, she's in a decent relationship, and the promotion she's about to receive will get her well on her way to her dreams. The road she's on seems to be leading her right where she wants to go...until she's presented with a turn that could change the course of her life forever. Sarah discovers she's pregnant and her notion of the way things are supposed to go for her is turned upside down. Sarah's view of marriage, children and family has been one of veiled disdain as she categorizes a pregnant coworker's decision to leave her job to raise her child as “throwing her whole life away”. The corporate environment in which she currently thrives, praises her for her dedication and ability to focus primarily on her job. Her relationship with her boyfriend, Matt, is casual and non-committal. The notion of being a mother does not factor into Sarah's worldview at the moment.

### **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES** *DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20 (NIV)*

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the LORD is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

### **Discussion Points**

- Have you ever carefully planned something, only to have a circumstance you weren't expecting throw a wrench into the whole scene?
- When you find yourself presented with choices where you have several sets of consequences, what's the first thing you do before approaching the course you will take?

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There are many voices whispering in Sarah's ears as she faces the news of her pregnancy. The doctor she goes to see to confirm the pregnancy encourages her to consider that the life she is carrying is merely a “clump of cells” at this point and likens it to a “wart” or “tonsils”. “Would you let a wart ruin your life,” she asks Sarah? Her coworker and friend, Megan, reinforces the message by telling her “it's her body, it's her choice” and goes on to tell her that she had an abortion when she was 16 and does not regret it. Even Sarah's boyfriend Matt reacts haltingly to the news and says “they're not ready” for children. Sarah's upbringing included teachings that abortion is wrong and Sarah has qualms about going that route. However, the voices of those around and her own worry about how to handle the situation push her ever closer to a dangerous choice.

## **Discussion Points**

- What influences you as you move forward with a decision? Do you consider the opinions of family? Friends? Co-workers? Have you ever been pressured into making a decision you knew was wrong? What was the outcome of that situation?
  - Read Proverbs 16:9 - As you consider important choices before you, where does the Bible tell you can you go to find the right answer?
  - Read Matthew 6:33 - What is the first thing we should seek before making any choice?
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## **Heart Challenge #2 "THE CROSSROADS"**

As Sarah leaves the clinic, a woman approaches her and gives her a Christmas card. She tells Sarah that she will have "three visions" regarding this choice she's about to make. When she goes to sleep that night, Sarah has a dream that she has given birth to a baby. She's scared at first, but as she orients herself, the child in her arms brings her great joy. Sarah awakens, even more confused than before. As the urgency of the decision looms closer, Sarah is considering all of the information she has. In talking with Megan, she learns more about Megan's abortion and the situation that led to it. It becomes clear to Sarah that Megan's defensiveness about this topic is borne of Megan's great regret and guilt. In her quest to seek the answers for this situation Sarah also visits her sister and discusses the situation with her. We can see the weight of this decision pressing in on Sarah as her sister encourages her to consider the rewards of choosing life...despite all of its pressures, difficulties and annoyances.

As the decision time closes in, Sarah begins to feel very alone. The memories of her father's death come in to cloud things further, and her fear turns into anger towards God. She tells her mother, as her mother tries to steer her gently to a choice to keep the baby, that she feels like "God doesn't even know she exists". Her mother feels helpless in guiding her daughter, so she just begins to pray relentlessly, as does Sarah's sister. We see the affect of these prayers as Sarah gets closer to the reality of the choice before her. We also see a change in the heart of her boyfriend Matt, who is putting aside his immature and non-committal ways to make a choice to embrace what is important—his role in supporting Sarah and the baby and considering a long-term commitment to Sarah.

### **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES**

*MATTHEW 7:13-14 (NIV)*

"Enter through the narrow gate.

For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

### **Discussion Points**

- As Sarah's questions turn into fear and subsequently into anger towards God, she is getting ever closer to veering in the wrong direction. Do you believe Sarah's struggle has to do with choosing an easy path as opposed to a more difficult path? What does the Bible tell us about the "narrow" gate and the road where it leads?
- Have you ever felt angry towards God for "putting" you in a situation where you had to make a hard choice? How did you resolve this feeling towards Him?

Matt seeks counsel from his Uncle Clay who advises him that just being "in love" with Sarah is not enough to carry them through this particular situation. He explains that love is not the definition we most often think of--romance, flowers and good feelings but that love "is a result of fighting for a commitment you made and never giving up even when you can't go on anymore". When Matt is ready to embrace that, Uncle Clay advises, he's ready to embrace a life with Sarah and the baby they've created. Meanwhile, Sarah's visions continue and she's compelled by their vividness...the life they represent is one of fulfillment and purpose as a mother of a child she loves fiercely. Although her heart is melting, her mind is still in upheaval. She goes to the clinic again to find the woman who told her she'd have the visions and comes upon a group of women who are part of an abortion recovery group. Their purpose is to enable women who've gone through with abortions to accept God's forgiveness and then move on to forgive themselves.

### **Discussion Points**

- Sarah's slowly seeing that the choice she must make will be the more seemingly difficult of the two. What's a difficult choice you've made in your life and how did you come through it? What would have happened if you had chosen the "easier" road?
- Have you ever been blessed with a vision that later played itself out in reality? How did you respond to this gift from the Lord?
- We've all made choices that weren't necessarily the right ones. How have you been able to recognize God's forgiveness and work through forgiving yourself when this has happened?

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## **Heart Challenge #3**

### **"THE ROAD THAT LEADS HOME"**

Sarah's need to make a choice reaches its peak after she talks with her pastor. He assures her that she already knows what the right choice is and that "God will give her faith and wisdom to overcome any obstacle" in the aftermath of the decision. Sarah's third and final vision reveals an older version of herself the self that made a choice not to have the baby. This "alternate future" version of Sarah tells her that this is not the road she would want to take. She also tells young Sarah that she must "have courage, have faith and make a choice regardless of the consequences". Sarah is moved by this latest vision and makes the bold step to tell the executive team that she is pregnant. She moves forward by faith, trusting that God will take care of the rest.

While God has worked on her heart and helped her hone in on the right path to choose, He is also working on Matt who has become serious about his career focus and even more serious about his commitment to Sarah. Sarah has a final moment where she cries out to God and asks for His help, His guidance and simply the wisdom to be a good mother. Matt appears at her doorstep shortly after this moment and presents her with a ring and the promise never to leave her. "You've been dragging me along behind you", he tells you, "it's time for me to carry you for awhile".

### **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES**

*PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)*

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

### **Discussion Points**

- The process of making difficult choices can be excruciating. But the rewards are great when the right choice is put into motion. Read Philippians 4:11-13. Have you learned to be content in the aftermath of your choices?
- Sarah found contentment and comfort in finally making the right choice. Can you think of a time where a difficult choice brought peace, even though the road ahead looked rough?

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## **WRAP UP**

Sarah's life has taken on a new direction. It wasn't the one that she had planned or dreamed of, but God gave her a new plan and new "vision" to see the life ahead as full of possibilities. Sarah's choice also enabled her to be a light to her friend Megan and help her to recover from her own personal devastation through a choice she made long ago. As Megan releases the balloon that represents the life of the child she never knew, there is closure and forgiveness and the assurance that no matter which way we go, God can work all things for His good.

