



Grow

DEVOTIONAL



Journey along with us during the Baby Bottle Campaign
through this engaging devotional

Director's Invitation

A Sycamore tree. Long before Zacchaeus ever needed it, God sovereignly planted the seed just where it needed to be for him to see Jesus.

In Luke 19:1-9, we see that Zacchaeus had barriers and challenges in his way; his short stature amongst the crowd and his reputation as an outcast by the decisions that he had made. It wasn't as if he could politely say "excuse me" and the crowd would let him through. In fact I see the opposite happening. Judgment, side eyes, head shaking, pushing away, and maybe even cruel comments.

But God in His great mercy and goodness provided a way for Zacchaeus to encounter Jesus by planting a seed years and years ahead so he could climb that very tree.

I can't help but think of two things in particular upon reflecting on this story. One is God watching this tree **grow** over the years for the moment, "when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house" (vs. 5). I hope this devotional which we've chosen with a **grow** theme can be like your sycamore tree for the next five weeks. A place where you can see Jesus (vs. 4) working through Envisage in many marvelous ways.

The second thing I'm reflecting upon is, just like Zacchaeus had barriers and obstacles, so do many of our clients facing unexpected pregnancy and pregnancy related challenges. Our desire is to be the hands, feet, and mouthpiece of Jesus in our community and welcome them into a safe place to experience love, compassion, help, and hope.

Will you join me for the next few weeks in the shade of the sycamore tree branches as we see Jesus?

I hope to meet you there.

Darrelyn Dobbin

Executive Director





FILL THE BOTTLE... CHANGE A LIFE

About the Baby Bottle Campaign

Every year since opening in 2006, Envisage has raised a large percentage of its budget through the Baby Bottle Campaign. The campaign was simple: supporters would pick up baby bottles at church on Mother's Day, fill them with donations, and return them on Father's Day. Things changed in 2020, and we've been running the campaign virtually ever since. We have found it to be a much safer way of raising funds especially in regards to the security of personal information and it allows us to steward our resources more effectively so we can invest more time serving clients. The booklets feature a page for each week of the campaign, including a weekly:

- Client story
- Bible verse related to that week's story
- List of daily prayer requests and a Baby Bottle to "fill" with colour as you pray

The devotionals will help raise awareness of the struggles so many people face and also help supporters to pray in an informed way. The booklets can be used by individuals, families and small groups; consider memorizing the verse of the week and discussing what you learned from the story and activity. As usual, the campaign will start on Mother's Day (May 12th), and end on Father's Day (June 16th). The final page of this booklet outlines the ways that you can be part of the important work of Envisage.

[Click to watch our clients
share the difference
Envisage made to them!](#)

[Click to
Donate Online](#)

Please note: All client stories have been shared with permission. Aliases have been used to protect client's identities.



Week 1

Josie's Story

I was terrified to find out that I was pregnant. I had no idea what I was going to do. After I went to the shelter a friend recommended Envisage to me. I was very unsure about making that call. I was afraid to be judged. I got the courage to call and make an appointment.

“I cried throughout the first appointment, because I felt it was a safe place to do so.”

I was able to receive peer support every other week. Envisage helped me prepare for my baby through Childbirth Education Classes and I was also able to attend the parenting classes (Strengthening Families Program). I found the parenting classes extremely helpful and also was able to make friends from those classes.

After my baby was born I continued to visit Envisage where I was able to talk about my life and anything I was struggling with mentally. I was constantly reassured and helped through these feelings.

“I feel like there would have been a huge difference in my mental health if I didn't have constant support through Envisage. I felt heard and understood and that I wasn't alone.”

There was a brief moment when I considered abortion and I just can't imagine my life now without my baby. He is my whole heart. I can't wait to put him in bed some nights but then when I do, I miss him.

I would reassure someone based on the experience that I had at Envisage and encourage them that it is a judgment free zone. I was so worried about being judged and after the first meeting I wasn't worried about that anymore.

So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus.
Luke 19:4

Growing Where You're Planted...

Why the Sycamore tree? I think one of the reasons that God chose to plant that seed in particular was because of its low hanging branches so that Zacchaeus would have been able to climb it. This is just another example of God's tender and loving heart towards us. He tore down the obstacles and barriers Zacchaeus faced by making another way. He cares about the details of our lives. So much so that He made sure Zacchaeus could reach a branch in order to see Jesus. At Envisage we help clients like **Josie** overcome and break through barriers and obstacles in their lives in many different ways.

Click to Watch

Listen to this worship song this week.
What is your favorite lyric? I would love to hear from you.
Write me at darrelyn@envisagepregnancy.ca

Please Pray

Day 1: That Envisage would be known as a place where people are supported and cared for... and that God's love would shine.

Day 2: That people facing difficult pregnancy situations would easily find Envisage and have the courage to contact us.

Day 3: For the team at Envisage - that God would give them wisdom about the best ways to care for each person they serve.

Day 4: That God would continue to grow the team at Envisage in His good timing - in various different roles.

Day 5: That God would use the campaign to remind people about each person's value and the challenges that some face.

Day 6: For those who are wrestling - that Envisage's care would make them feel cared for and supported.

Day 7: For Pregnancy Care Canada as they equip centres to serve with excellence.



FILL THE BOTTLE
As you pray for each day's request, colour in the section of the bottle for that day. At the end of the week, the bottle will be full!



Week 2

Ally's Story

I am sharing my positive experience about Envisage Pregnancy Services which can also inspire others to seek help when they need it. I moved to Barrie Ontario and contacted Envisage Pregnancy Services because I was at the peak of giving up. I had a bunch of issues I was dealing with as a single mum and pregnant.

“Envisage provided me with invaluable support during a challenging time in my life.”

I was assisted with weekly counseling, weekly baby/pregnancy classes, provisions for groceries, referrals to food banks, clothes, all my baby needs, and several referrals to other agencies. My health and wellbeing was paramount to them and home visitation was top notch. This shows their dedication to helping women and their family thrive in their vulnerable stages.

“Their support has made such a positive impact on not just me but my entire family and I deeply appreciate everything they've done.”

Having a Doula by your side throughout your pregnancy journey, delivery, and post-delivery is truly invaluable. Envisage Pregnancy Services' continuous support and presence have provided me with immense comfort and reassurance during such significant moments. I had such a dedicated support system during this time.

I am expressing my gratitude to Envisage Pregnancy Services for providing me support during difficult times, letting them know how much their assistance meant to me can make a big difference.

*When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him,
“Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me
to stay at your house.”*

Luke 19:5

Growing Where You're Planted...

Zacchaeus set out to see Jesus that day. Little did he know that by the end of the day Jesus would be staying with him at his house and the personal encounter he would have at the Sycamore tree. Can't you just see it?! Zacchaeus running ahead, jumping and climbing the tree, watching Jesus get closer and closer. I'm sure Zacchaeus thought Jesus would pass right by (vs. 1). But something happened. Jesus stopped. Right in the place where Zacchaeus was and looked up, locked eyes and called him by name "Zacchaeus". Jesus knows us deeply and by name. Everyone who comes through our doors just like **Ally**, we make them feel known, seen, heard and valued because they are made in the image of God.

Let's memorize **Isaiah 43:1** together.

Please Pray

Day 1: That God would equip our Envisage team as we learn how best support to those who are newcomers to Canada.

Day 2: For international students feeling fearful and overwhelmed about pregnancy – that they would have the courage to reach out for support.

Day 3: For refugees who might be isolated and struggling financially as they adjust to life in a new country while also preparing to become parents.

Day 4: For newcomers who do not have medical coverage – that God would provide healthy, safe pregnancies and deliveries, and provide for financial needs.

Day 5: That God would give strength and wisdom and meet the practical needs of newcomers who are having their babies, even though they face many challenges.

Day 6: That we would help newcomers prepare for their parenting journey through Envisage's childbirth classes and parenting program.

Day 7: For continued expansion in South Georgian Bay with our recently increased hours and for more local churches to partner with us in that area.



FILL THE BOTTLE

As you pray for each day's request, draw hearts in the section of the bottle for that day. At the end of the week, the bottle will be full!



Week 3

Janine's Story

When I first heard about Envisage, I was unsure about calling. My son Jasper was just three months old and making ends meet was tough.

Most of the time I felt lost and scared about being a good mom. Finally I made the call to Envisage.

Everyone was so friendly and I found lovely support women who were easy to talk to as well as helpful. I felt really relieved that there were people at Envisage who were helping me and I was no longer alone and having to figure it all out on my own.

“Envisage helped me feel proud to be a good mother — the best person I can be for my little ‘small fry.’ I want to be the best mommy I can be for Jasper.”

I've gained confidence in my parenting because of the support I've received. I used to worry about being judged for having Jasper but now I see him as a blessing in my life. School was difficult for me and I didn't read well. With some encouragement from Envisage, I enrolled in classes to gain reading skill and vocabulary. Now I read regularly to Jasper and hope to be able to support him as he learns. I even bought a whole series of books and am reading for fun in my spare time!

Services and classes all offered in a caring atmosphere make Envisage a place where I can be myself and share what concerns me. “They don't judge me at all but jump in to help me make good decisions and do my best for Jasper.” One of the reception staff recently said, **“Look at you go, Janine! You've just blossomed!”** And it's true, I'm so much more confident because of the helpful kindness at Envisage..

So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

[Luke 19:6-8](#)

Growing Where You're Planted...

Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus. When other's judged, God showed love, compassion and gave him hope. Clients like **Janine** and **Jasper** are so precious to us. Did you know that each support visit is usually one hour in length? We want to make sure that each client feels special and has our full attention to come alongside them. Enjoy one hour this week with someone you love. Perhaps you could share this Grow Devotional with them.

Please Pray

Day 1: For clients who do not have reliable housing situations. Pray that God would provide safe and affordable places for them to live.

Day 2: For families who face unemployment, that God would lead them to a job that is perfect for them.

Day 3: For clients who are alone or in unhealthy relationships - that they would see their value and have the courage to reach out for help.

Day 4: For clients who struggle with health issues (themselves, their families or children), that God would give them energy they need and direct them to helpful care and support.

Day 5: For clients who are living in poverty, struggling to afford housing, food and other basic needs - that God would provide for their needs.

Day 6: For clients who are considering adoption - that God would give them courage, wisdom and direction.

Day 7: For Envisage clients who are overwhelmed facing pregnancy because of their difficult situations - that God would provide for their needs in miraculous ways and give them hope.



FILL THE BOTTLE

As you pray for each day's request, draw stars in the section of the bottle for that day. At the end of the week, the bottle will be full!



Week 4

Ruby's Story

I was in a crappy place when I first met with Envisage. My dad was unhappy that I was pregnant and although it had always been an abusive relationship, now it was worse. My dad was hitting me and calling me horrible names. I couldn't do anything right.

When I found out I was pregnant, I was told I had one week to decide what to do about the pregnancy and I was really nervous. One of my supports referred me to Envisage.

I started talking with a support worker at Envisage. They were so supportive and happy to be seeing me and assisting me. I decided to continue the pregnancy but was apprehensive about how to take care of a baby. I learned all kinds of beneficial information through the Preparing for Baby program. I was so grateful for all the encouragement. I wasn't even aware help was out there for me and Envisage stepped right in to guide me along the way.

After Alex was born, I spiralled down emotionally and mentally. Being able to call the doula literally saved my life. Next thing I knew, rescue arrived for me and for my baby. I was rushed to the hospital. I needed to get back on track and needed care. The doula talked with me every day to make sure I was okay and to give practical tips to thrive. She was so compassionate and reassured me that I wasn't a horrible mother for experiencing a postpartum mood disorder.

“Envisage went above and beyond to help me out with so many needs. Envisage will care for you in ways you don't even know yet.” We have a super relationship with our support worker and we know that if we are ever in need or distress, we can be honest and talk through our difficulties with her.

“Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him, “because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost”.

Luke 19:9-10

Growing Where You're Planted...

God's love shining is a huge part of our vision. We want everyone to know and experience God's love for them. The story of Zacchaeus is a wonderful example of this. Zacchaeus was not only a small man physically but society made him feel small. His whole life people literally looked down to him. Then he encounters Jesus. For the first time in maybe his whole life Jesus literally looks up to him (Luke 19:5). God's love shining is radical grace.

Ruby felt like we were a life saver for her. We know we can only show this kind of radical love to our clients because God's love first sought and saved us.

Treat yourself to some life saver candies and reflect that Jesus has come to seek and save You.

Please Pray

Day 1: For teens, women and men who are overwhelmed as they face unexpected pregnancies, that God would use the Envisage team to give them hope.

Day 2: For clients who are taking our childbirth education classes - that the classes would prepare and equip them for the arrival of their babies.

Day 3: That the families we are supporting would be kept healthy - especially for those who will be having babies soon or with newborns.

Day 4: For pregnant clients who are anxious about the birth of their babies - that God would give them peace and also safe, uncomplicated deliveries.

Day 5: For new parents supported by Envisage - that God would give them energy, rest and healthy bodies and minds.

Day 6: For families participating in our SFP group, that they would have healthy attachment with their babies, and also learn skills they need for parenting.

Day 7: That our Envisage team would be filled with wisdom, health and unity so that we can be unhindered in caring well for those we serve.



FILL THE BOTTLE

As you pray for each day's request, draw smiley faces in the section of the bottle for that day. At the end of the week, the bottle will be full!



Week 5

Envisage's Story

Over these last four weeks we have read about our clients growing as a result of the impact Envisage has made in their lives. We have also read and reflected about Zacchaeus' growth.

This week I'd like to share with you where we believe God is leading Envisage to grow and where we have already started to sprout for 2024. Before I share this exciting news though, I'd like to invite you to watch an inspiring video below to help cast this vision.

[Watch Stories from the Stage](#)

“I'm 18 years old and for the first and only time in my life I couldn't physically speak” this was a quote in the video from Natalie Limoges after finding out she was unexpectedly pregnant.

We want to be like those two people in Natalie's life that were a catalyst for change and believed in her. Having someone in your corner can make all the difference in the world. Envisage is that safe place for people to come. With your support we can continue to grow in ways of making a profound impact in people's lives. Here are some ways we hope to grow.

Kathy's Heart. An in-home postpartum support. Many women find it challenging postpartum to leave their home for a variety of reasons but need support. As a result, we sometimes don't see our clients for weeks or maybe even months. This program would allow us to go to them in their homes and provide a holistic and practical approach to the support they need.

Church Champion Initiative. Having a Church Champion enables Envisage to have a point person to communicate to each church on our behalf without creating work for church leaders or other staff roles. They are simply an important bridge for us to the congregation. Enrolling in this program is a wonderful way you or your church can support us as a local pregnancy care centre.

We are celebrating new growth with the expansion of our Collingwood location to three days a week! and have also introduced a new healthy relationships curriculum produced by Pregnancy Care Canada that we can use with our clients in many different stages of life.

Thank you for meeting with me in the “Sycamore tree” over these last five weeks. I hope you have been encouraged by the stories, impacted by God’s Word, and been reminded that God’s love knows no bounds.

I have one more invitation that I hope you will consider. Will you help us continue to grow by donating to our Baby Bottle Campaign? Every dollar counts as we Fill The Bottle...Change A Life.

Please Pray

Day 1: That there would be a Church Champion role in every church that supports Envisage to be a liaison between the church community and the Envisage team.

Day 2: That Kathy’s Heart in home postpartum support would launch in 2024 and help many clients to thrive postpartum.

Day 3: That God would provide the right amount of funding for the work He wants Envisage to do.

Day 4: That those connecting with Envisage would know their true value and experience God’s love for them through our support.

Day 5: That Envisage would be effective in our promotional efforts and that there would be an accurate awareness of who we are and the services we provide.

Day 6: That as the Baby Bottle Campaign wraps up this weekend, God would stir in people’s hearts to support Envisage in the way that He is leading them.

Day 7: That, above all else, Envisage would be known as a place that shines God’s love through everything we do!



FILL THE BOTTLE
As you pray for each day’s request, place stickers in the section of the bottle for that day. At the end of the week, the bottle will be full!



About Envisage

Envisage Pregnancy Services is a Christian organization whose mission is to provide support to anyone facing unexpected pregnancy or pregnancy related challenges. Our vision is to see People Valued, Families Thriving, and God's Love Shining. We are absolutely convinced that there is a God... and that people matter to God! We serve individuals of all faith backgrounds and no faith backgrounds, but our beliefs are the reason for everything that we do flowing from our Mission and Vision.

In Canada almost 50% of all pregnancies are unexpected.

Unexpected pregnancy can feel overwhelming because of financial struggle, conflict with education or employment, concern about the impact on other people, isolation, age or stage of life, lack of supportive relationships and even abuse. For some, life is going well and pregnancy causes significant hurdles to their hopes and dreams. For others, life is incredibly difficult, and an unexpected pregnancy or challenge with pregnancy is the final straw that makes life unbearable.

Envisage exists to provide compassionate care, a safe place to talk, process, and take the time to make informed decisions surrounding pregnancy and pregnancy challenges. Because we believe God loves each individual and that they are precious to him, our desire is to be a catalyst of his love to these individuals to let them know they are not alone.



Watch our clients share the difference Envisage made to them!

Envisage Video

Dani's Video

Joy's Video

BE PART OF ENVISAGE!

STAY INFORMED: Sign up for Envisage's Newsletter!

info@envisagepregnancy.ca



Sign up for Envisage's Prayer E-News

info@envisagepregnancy.ca



Inquire about opportunities to serve by contacting

info@envisagepregnancy.ca



Be part of Envisage by donating in any of the following ways

E-TRANSFER

E-Transfers can be sent to finance@envisagepregnancy.ca. Please include your mailing address in the message section for receipting purposes.

E-Transfers are direct deposited into our account (no password is needed).

CHEQUE

Please make cheques for both the Barrie and the South Georgian Bay location payable to **Envisage Pregnancy Services** and mail or deliver them to Envisage Pregnancy Services, 5 Sophia St. East, Barrie, ON L4M 1Y1

PHONE

Call Envisage at 705-739-7280 to donate by VISA or Mastercard



FILL THE BOTTLE...
CHANGE A LIFE

2024 Baby Bottle Fundraising Campaign

Click to
Donate Online

or visit www.envisagepregnancy.ca/baby-bottle-campaign

Thank You For Your Support!



OUR MISSION

We provide support to anyone facing unexpected pregnancy or pregnancy related challenges

OUR VALUES

We Value People - We treat each person with dignity and respect

We Listen - More than we talk, we know it helps to feel understood

We Empathize - We respond with compassion, always assuming the best about people

We Don't Judge - We are a safe place where nobody has to pretend

We Hope - Some people might see problems, we see possibilities

OUR VISION

People Valued – Families Thriving – God's Love Shining

We Empower - We celebrate people's strengths and provide a place for each person to find their voice

We Equip - We teach skills to help people do their best

We are Trauma Informed - Trauma has an impact; we serve in a way that is aware

We Are Holistic - We long for people to thrive in their body, mind, emotions, spirit and relationships

We Love Jesus - God's love is the reason for everything we do

OUR SERVICES

Pregnancy Tests

A Safe Place to Explore

Pregnancy Options

Ongoing Support

Information About Community Resources

Adoption Information & Support

Post Abortion Support

Preparing for Baby Program

Parenting Program & Postpartum Support

OUR LOCATIONS

Barrie & Area

5 Sophia St. East, Barrie
705-739-7280

South Georgian Bay

35 Fourth St East, Collingwood
705-293-5000

info@envisagepregnancy.ca

Mailing Address: 5 Sophia Street East Barrie, ON L4M 1Y1

www.envisagepregnancy.ca