



#59930

IN HIS HANDS

Characters: Betty (the mother), Betty's daughter, Sara (who is in a wheelchair); Ruth (an elderly woman); Lois and Paul (a middle aged couple)

Props: Wheelchair and pillow for Betty's daughter; four chairs

Scene: The waiting room of a hospital. Betty is sitting in one of the chairs. Next to her is her daughter sitting in the wheelchair. The daughter is unable to sit up without being propped up with pillows. Ruth walks into the room with tears in her eyes.

Betty: My dear, why are you so sad?

Ruth: My husband is in the hospital. He had a stroke several days ago and the doctors don't give me much hope that he will get better. They want to put a feeding tube in him to give him nourishment and then send him to a nursing home. I don't know if George would want that. He always said, "I hope I die quickly." There are just so many decisions to make. I don't know where to turn.

Betty: Have you asked for God's guidance? Whenever I pray and ask Him to help me, somehow He shows me the way. If I put my trust in Him and asks for His help in the name of Jesus, it seems to help me know I'm not alone and things will work out. God loves each one of us.

Ruth: How can you be so trusting, and how can you say God loves you (*Ruth pulls Betty aside and speaks quietly so her daughter will not hear*) when He left your child so crippled, not even able to sit up. And my husband is unable to even talk to me.

Betty: Oh, but God does love me, and that is why I have her with me. My doctor encouraged me to have an abortion when I was just four months pregnant. That just didn't seem right, even through the doctors knew there was something wrong with her. We had wanted to have a baby for such a long time. I had already had several miscarriages. My husband and I prayed to the Lord for faith, strength, and courage to see the pregnancy through. After Sara was born we prayed for wisdom to raise her according to God's plan. Her need for me to care for her and the smiles she gives back to me have been such a blessing. She became my reason for living after my husband was killed

in a car accident when Sara was only a year old. She was part of God's plan to keep me focused on Him and not on myself, wallowing in self-pity.

(At this point the middle-aged couple, Paul and Lois, walk in. They are both beaming with excitement.)

Lois: Oh, honey, isn't the baby darling? Why he is the cutest baby ever!

Paul: Yup! He sure is cute, just as cute as his sister was when she was born. She was pretty cute, too. I'm sure glad Jean and John decided to go ahead and have the baby instead of having an abortion like John's parents thought they should.

Lois: It really helped for all of us to talk to our pastor and ask him to pray for us, our kids and the decision they had to make. We wanted the decision to be God's way.

Paul: We always told Jean there isn't anything we can't do with God by our side. I believe the kids knew they had sinned in God's eyes because they weren't married. But they also knew that repentance brings forgiveness. To have chosen an abortion would have added another sin. God has known our grandchild since before he was conceived, just like the Bible says. "*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I anointed you as a prophet to the nations.*" Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)

Lois: Some people think babies who are conceived before people are ready for they are mistakes, but we know God doesn't make mistakes.

Betty: I certainly agree with you. God loves all babies. In fact, He loves all of us regardless of how we look, how old or young we are, how smart or talented we are. He has a plan for us – each and every one of us.

Ruth: You talk about plans for people. What do you think God's plan is for my husband, who can't swallow, talk to me, or even respond? *(She cries and wrings her hands)* I don't know what to do or where to turn. I have no family to help me. I don't belong to a church, so I do not have a pastor. But I do believe in God. I don't really know how to pray. Maybe God won't even listen to me since I don't go to church.

Betty: Would you let us pray with you?

Lois: Praying is like talking to a loving father. Why don't we all join hands? Paul would you lead us in a prayer? *(Everyone joins hands and bows their heads.)*

Paul: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing us all together in this waiting room. We thank for the joy you have brought to our family through the birth of our grandson. We thank you also for the courage and compassion

you have given to Betty as you have filled her heart with love, enabling her to care for special needs daughter, Sara. We ask You, dear Lord, to be with Ruth and her critically ill husband. Help Ruth in making the decisions regarding her husband's care. Give her strength and knowledge that you are always with her. We ask all these things in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(All raise their heads and drop their hands, except Lois, who continues to hold Ruth's hand)

Lois: Why don't we all walk down to the nursery so you can see our new grandson?

Paul: *(Writing on a piece of paper.)* Ruth, here is our phone number. Please call us if we can be of help to you. We will be glad to spend some time praying with you again. Perhaps you would like to join us for church. Just give us a call and we will pick you up.

(All walk off together on their way to the nursery. Betty pushing her daughter's wheelchair)