



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Breakfast/Workday** – Calling all the guys to join us for a couple hours on Saturday Nov 16th at 8am for a Men's Breakfast and Workday. We'll eat Breakfast Burritos together and work around the property.
- **Discovery 101** – Our next Discovery 101 class will take place on November 17th. If you are interested in learning more about Southwinds and ready to become a member, please sign up on the APP or email info@southwinds.org with questions.
- **Operation Christmas Child** - Southwinds is partnering with Samaritan's Purse to send gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of Jesus to children in need around the world. Grab a pre-printed box with filling instructions from the Kid's Ministry area or bring your own filled shoebox. Return boxes by Sunday, November 25th. You may also provide a \$10 donation at Samaritan's Purse website.
- **Place Survey Announcement** – God has designed each of us with a gift to make an impact in this world by serving others. Not sure what your gift is? The Place Survey helps you focus in on what those gifts are and where God wants to use you to make an impact. To complete the survey and help us to know where you would like to serve, click [here](#) or complete the Place Survey located on the APP.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

Leaders - state how we love all people regardless of their views and past. We want all group members to feel comfortable discussing the issue whether they have engaged in an abortion or not. Remind everyone there is no shame, only forgiveness in Jesus and love from the group.

What is your earliest memory of the issue of abortion being mentioned or discussed? How old were you and what do you remember about it?

Introduction

1. Abortion is not a partisan political issue.

2. This message is primarily about grace.
3. Do we really believe in the truthfulness & authority of God's Word?

Did God communicate the idea of life beginning in the womb before abortion was a political issue or after?

(Answer: Before)

Was life a theological issue before it was political? (Answer: Yes)

When the pro-abortion lobby tries to silence Christians about abortion by calling it a political issue, are they correct? (Answer: No)

If life is a theological issue more than a political one, is it right for us to be silenced about it? (Answer: No)

Does this mean there is no place for Christians to be political at all? Talk about the proper balance.

POINT 1: What is the Heart of the Issue?

- How is the question of "what is the nature of the unborn?" the most important question of all on the issue?

Greg Koukl states, "If the preborn is not a human being, no justification for abortion is necessary. However, if the preborn is a human being, no justification is adequate"

- If the unborn is not a human being, but the equivalent of an appendix or wisdom tooth, would anyone have a problem removing it from the mother's body?
- Would it be fair to say, "If it's not your DNA, then it's not your body or your choice".
- Since the baby has its own unique DNA, is it really the mother's body?
- Isn't it simply IN the mother's body? What's the difference?

POINT 2: What does God's Word say about Abortion?

Have a Volunteer Read: Psalm 139:13-16

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

- How does reading/ hearing these verses prompt you to worship God?
- How does it prompt you to thank Him for your life?

When it comes to abortion, the value of an unborn child is really measured only by whether the mother WANTS the child or not – this can be the only determining factor.

- How is this so different from what God's Word says about the unborn?
- Should God wanting the child bear more weight than the mother wanting the child? Why?

3 Relevant Truths

1. Abortion attacks God's sovereign authority as Creator
 2. Abortion attacks God's wonderful work in Creation
 3. Abortion attacks God's intimate relationship with the unborn.
- How does our culture have authority issues—pushing us to choose personal autonomy over God's authority?
 - How are believers uneducated about God's Word when it comes to what it says about abortion?
 - Why has abortion become such a heated and controversial issue? Is all the divisiveness warranted?

POINT 3: How should Christ-followers respond?

- How can we be gracious during disagreements about such an important issue?
- What happens if you win the argument but lose the person?
- What does this mean for our gospel witness?

APPLICATION

AS A GROUP - discuss why the four reasons listed below cannot measure or diminish the value of human life in the womb.

INDIVIDUALLY - Study, pray and ask God to help you remember the acrostic S.L.E.D. (Size, Level of Development, Environment and Degree of Dependency) so you will be able to defend the right of the unborn.

- **SIZE** – We do not determine value based on size. A 16-yr old is not more valuable than a 4-yr. old simply because she is bigger in size
- **LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT** - We do not determine value based on the level of development. A 16-yr old girl is not more valuable than a 4-yr old girl simply because she is more developed and further along in the aging process.
- **ENVIRONMENT** – We do not determine value based on where a person is or what environment they live in. If changing your environment or location does not change your fundamental status as a human, then being inside or outside a womb cannot either.
- **DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY** – We do not determine value or personhood based on one's dependence on others. Newborns & infants are still dependent on their parents and would die without being provided nutrition & protection. So a baby in the womb connected to the mother is dependent on her for nutrition and protection, but this does not diminish their inherent value.

References referred to in the message.

- Precious Unborn Human Persons, Gregory Koukl
- Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments, Randy Alcorn
- The Case for Life, Scott Klusendorf
- Love Thy Body, Nancy Pearcey

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS