



21 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

Calling Christians to Unite, to Pray, and to Engage



the Chuck
Colson Center
for Christian Worldview



AN INVITATION TO PRAY AND ENGAGE

Many people wish the abortion debate would just go away. They're tired of the controversy and name-calling played out almost daily on social media. They're turned-off by harsh rhetoric and careless labels, not to mention constant political bickering.

Perhaps you feel this way. You have a heart for the unborn, but have yet to act on your pro-life sentiments. You want to do something, but see only two options—pick a fight or avoid the issue in polite company!

But there's a third option—pray and engage.

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE RIGHT

The abortion controversy is not going away anytime soon. Why? Because what's at stake is not a surgical procedure. Beneath the rhetoric from both sides lies a fundamental question: Who counts as one of us? Does each and every human being have an equal right to life, or do our rights rest on some characteristic that may come and go in the course of our lifetimes?

We rightfully consider historical blights like sexism and racism as evil, because they highlight a surface difference (like gender or skin color) while ignoring the underlying humanity all of us share. All humans – whether women or men, African-Americans or Whites - are equals, and should not face discrimination, because we all share an essential human nature. If the unborn also share that nature, we should protect them as well.

Today, with elective abortion, we've simply swapped one form of bigotry for another.

OUR EQUALITY STORY IS BETTER

Pro-life Christians have a sound basis for human equality, a basis that the Church has acknowledged since its inception. God has endowed humanity with dignity. All humans have value simply because they are human, created by God in His own image.

By inviting you to pray with us for these 21 days, we are not asking you to pick fights with friends and family over a surgical procedure. We are asking you to join the most significant human-rights cause of our day, and to equip yourself to engage the culture on a fundamental question it's already asking—What makes us equal?

PRAY TO ENGAGE

This prayer guide has two objectives.

- 1) Help Christians pray with understanding by focusing on key aspects of the abortion debate. So much is at stake. Pro-life crisis pregnancy centers are under constant spiritual and political attack. Pro-life legislators and jurists need courage to protect these centers and the wisdom to propose, and sustain, laws aimed at protecting the unborn. Abortion-clinic workers need to experience a profound work of grace that

opens their eyes to the reality of what they are doing. Each day, three specific prayer points will address these and other concerns.

- 2) Equip Christians to engage others in true and loving conversation. Friends and family need to know the pro-life view is true and reasonable and worth believing. At the same time, post-abortion men and women desperately need equipped Christians to communicate the supernatural healing found only in the Christian gospel. They need Christians with sound minds and tender hearts.

The idea of “engaging” others may sound scary, but it shouldn’t. Heart and mind change is not our responsibility. It’s God’s! We shouldn’t worry about converting people to pro-life. But we can give them something to think about, however imperfectly we may communicate it. God will do the rest.

Will you join us as we entreat heaven to bring a miracle to individuals and our culture? We need one. Lives hang in the balance.



ABOUT THE COLSON CENTER

The Colson Center informs and equips Christians to make sense of the world, and unites them to advance cultural renewal.

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OUR PARTNERS

This prayer guide is the result of a cooperative effort by the following organizations:



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WHY PRO-LIFE? A SUMMARY

REASON #1: THE BIBLE AFFIRMS LIFE

Scripture is clear that all humans have value because they are made in the image of God, the *imago dei* (Genesis 1:26-28; James 3:9). In other words, humans are valuable by virtue of who they are, not because of what they can do. Humans have value simply because they are human.

Because humans bear the image of God, the shedding of innocent blood is strictly forbidden (Exodus 23:7; Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 5:21). The Bible is not saying it's always wrong to kill human beings, a position only a strict pacifist would hold. Its meaning is more specific: We are never to intentionally kill innocent human beings.

Abortion is the intentional killing of an innocent human being. Thus, the same passages in Scripture that forbid the shedding of innocent blood apply to the unborn.

Some are puzzled that the Bible never mentions abortion. Are we to conclude abortion is morally permitted? No! The Bible's alleged silence on abortion does not mean that its authors condoned the practice, but that prohibitions against it were largely unnecessary. The Hebrews of the Old Testament and the Christians of the New Testament were not likely to kill their offspring before birth. To understand why, let's step into their world. First, children were seen as a blessing, while barrenness was a curse—the worst curse for a woman (Psalm 137:3-5; 1 Samuel 1:6, Genesis 20:17-18, 30:1, 22-23). Second, immortality was expressed through one's descendants. God promises Abraham to make of him a great nation and that promise is passed on to Isaac, Jacob, etc. "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him," writes the Psalmist (127:3. See also Gen. 48:16). Third, among a people surrounded by hostile nations, continuing one's family line was vital for national security. Fourth, having children was a sacred responsibility: God's promise to bless all nations through Israel was predicated on replenishing the land with offspring. Fifth, the early Christians of the New Testament were Jewish believers who inherited

Jewish morality, including the commands against shedding innocent blood. Therefore, the Bible's silence on abortion does not suggest permission, but that prohibitions were largely unnecessary.

REASON #2: SCIENCE AFFIRMS LIFE

The science of embryology is clear that from the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. True, they have yet to grow and mature, but they are whole human beings nonetheless. Leading embryology textbooks affirm this.

Embryos differ from mere bodily cells, though abortion-choice advocates often claim they're the same. This is bad biology because it mistakes parts with wholes. The human embryo is already a whole human entity. It makes no sense to say that you were once a sperm or somatic cell. Dr. Maureen Condic, Assistant Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy at the University of Utah, explains the important distinction between individual body parts and whole human embryos overlooked by many abortion-choice advocates:

"The critical difference between a collection of cells and a living organism is the ability of an organism to act in a coordinated manner for the continued health and maintenance of the body as a whole. It is precisely this ability that breaks down at the moment of death, however death might occur. Dead bodies may have plenty of live cells, but their cells no longer function together in a coordinated manner."

From conception forward, human embryos clearly function as organisms. "Embryos are not merely collections of human cells, but living creatures with all the properties that define any organism as distinct from a group of cells; embryos are capable of growing, maturing, maintaining a physiologic balance between various organ systems, adapting to changing circumstances, and repairing injury. Mere groups of human cells do nothing like this under any circumstances."

REASON #3: LOGIC AFFIRMS LIFE

Either you believe that each and every human being has an equal right to life or you don't.

Pro-life Christians contend that although humans differ in their respective degrees of development, they are nonetheless equal because they share a common human nature that bears the image of their Creator. Humans have value simply because they are human.

Secular critics like David Boonin provide a radically different perspective: Although you are identical to the embryo you once were, it does not follow you had the same right to life then as you do now. For Boonin, being human is nothing special:

On my desk in my office where most of this book was written and revised, there are several pictures of my son, Eli. In one, he is gleefully dancing on the sand along the Gulf of Mexico, the cool ocean breeze wreaking havoc with his wispy hair. In a second, he is tentatively seated in the grass in his grandparents' backyard, still working to master the feat of sitting up on his own. In a third, he is only a few weeks old, clinging firmly to the arms that are holding him and still wearing the tiny hat for preserving body heat that he wore home from the hospital. Though all of the remarkable changes that these pictures preserve, he remains unmistakably the same little boy. In the top drawer of my desk, I keep another picture of Eli. This picture was taken...24 weeks before he was born. The sonogram image is murky, but it reveals clearly enough a small head tilted back slightly, and an arm raised up and bent, with the hand pointing back toward the face and the thumb extended out toward the mouth. There is no doubt in my mind that this picture, too, shows the same little boy at a very early stage in his physical development. And there is no question that the position I defend in this book entails that it would have been morally permissible to end his life at this point.

But here's Boonin's problem: If humans only have value because of some characteristic they possess in varying degrees, those with more of it have greater rights than those with less. Human equality is a myth.

Pro-life Christians have a better explanation for human equality. Our value is grounded in our common human nature, not a degreed property like self-awareness that none of us share equally and may come and go in the course of our lifetimes. When did you get that human nature? You got it the moment you began to exist—conception.

REASON #4: OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENTS AFFIRM LIFE

Pro-lifers are often told the pro-life view is "religious," and religious ideas should not determine public policy.

But this is merely a dismissal rather than a refutation. As Francis J. Beckwith points out, arguments are true or false, valid or invalid. Calling an argument "religious" is a category mistake on a par with asking, "How tall is the number five?"

Also, nowhere in the constitution does it say that believers are prohibited from bringing their ideas to the public square and arguing for them like everyone else. It's one thing to say the state should not establish a church. It's quite another to disenfranchise believers from participating in their own government.

Some of our country's most important documents – like The Declaration of Independence, Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, and Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" – have their roots in the biblical concept of the *imago dei*. If pro-lifers are irrational and unconstitutional for grounding basic human rights in the concept of a transcendent creator, these important historical documents—all of which advanced our national understanding of equality—are irrational and unconstitutional as well.

If God doesn't exist, where do human rights come from? If they come only from the State, the same government that grants rights can take them away. If human rights are to be absolute, they must come from a source higher than the State. That's what the authors of our founding documents believed: that every human being is "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." The first of these rights is the right to life.



HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

This prayer guide is absolutely free and we hope you and your family, friends, and church will distribute it freely – to Facebook, Twitter, wherever. (You can find a .pdf of this prayer guide prominently displayed at www.breakpoint.org)

Here are some suggestions for how to use this guide:

Personal Devotions. The “What To Pray For Today” suggestions are a great guide to personal prayer. They may also suggest individuals in your life who need prayer.

In Your Family. If your family has a daily or weekly prayer time, consider incorporating this guide into family devotions. If your family does not have a structured time of prayer, this guide could be a way to help you get started.

Your Church. Let this prayer guide help you lead a “concert of prayer” for the unborn in your church. If you are a pastor or leader in your church, feel free to copy and distribute this guide, or post an electronic version on your website. (There are no restrictions or permissions necessary. Copy and distribute at will!) Does your church have a Facebook page or Twitter account? Post a link.

ABORTION FACTS AND STATISTICS

No one knows who first said, “You can have your own opinions, but you cannot have your own facts.” Facts are indeed stubborn things, and knowing the facts about abortion can help you in your conversations with friends, family, and others.

- About one in three women will have an abortion by age 45.
- Nearly two-thirds of women having abortions say they are Christians.
- Almost half (49 percent) of abortions are among women and teens 24 years old and younger.
- More than 85 percent of “abortion-minded” women will change their minds about having an abortion if they are allowed to see an ultrasound picture of their babies.
- About 13 percent of American women are African-American, yet they account for more than 35 percent of all abortions.
- Less than one in seven Caucasian pregnancies end in abortion, but almost one in two African-American pregnancies end in abortion.
- Hispanic women account for 21 percent of all abortions.
- About 85 percent of women who had abortions in the U.S. were unmarried.

THE CASE FOR LIFE



WEEK 1

THE CASE FOR LIFE IS SOUND

DAY 1

Megan confidently took the stage and presented her case. This was no easy audience: 500 young men and women at a New England Catholic high school. Many of these students were Ivy League bound, and already skeptical that a case for life could even be made.

Later, Megan got this email from Alex, president of the student philosophy club:

I want to thank you again for speaking. I've gone to Catholic school my whole life, and I as well as my classmates have been fed the same argument against abortion for years: that God and the Bible say that it's wrong, so it's wrong. As a result of this, discussion on abortion became almost binary. Most regarded it as simply opinion, and never bothered trying to make a case of their own or debate the other side.

I'd like you to know that you changed that.

This was the first case against abortion I've heard that does not require a leap of faith. You proved your points with science and philosophy.

I've checked out prolifetraining.com, and I look forward to listening to the podcasts and reading the resources that are provided there. Thank you for your time, and thank you for changing the way the students see the battlefield of moral dilemmas.

Do we believe the case for life is really true? Are we willing to share it with others?



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 10

1. PRAY FOR COURAGE.

You may never be asked to speak to a group of cynical teenagers like Megan, but you may be asked to have a conversation with a friend, neighbor, or family member who is not pro-life. Pray that you will have courage when that time comes.

2. PRAY FOR KNOWLEDGE.

Many people, like Alex did before Megan's presentation, think that the question of abortion is one of opinion, not fact. Pray that pro-lifers will learn to thoughtfully and lovingly present a compelling case for life that changes hearts and minds.

3. PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITY.

The truth is on the side of life. Pray that God will provide opportunities for the message to spread person-to-person. Pray that God would raise up more pro-life apologists like Megan, and grant them opportunities to persuade audiences.

"I HOPE IT'S A GIRL"

DAY 2

"I am getting an abortion and there is nothing you can do about it."

Leah had a full athletic scholarship to a major Christian university. If the school learned of the pregnancy, she would lose her scholarship and her college education. She had decided that she would not allow a baby to put these things at risk.

The counselor at the pregnancy care center had one hope to change her mind: She asked Leah to agree to a free ultrasound. Leah agreed. With the child's life hanging in the balance, the ultrasound nurse listened to Leah's concerns and asked some gentle questions. Never once did she pressure Leah or shut down her concerns. Throughout the entire exam, Leah was glued to the screen.

When the exam was over, Leah whispered six words that revealed everything had changed: "I hope it's a girl." Another life was saved because of ultrasound.

Thankfully, ultrasound can reach many women at risk for abortion. Pregnancy centers nationwide confirm that when a client sees her child via ultrasound, the odds of abortion drop dramatically. In the past, we only had words. Now, pregnancy care centers and mobile units can offer clients a window into the womb. When a pro-life pregnancy center has a full range of medical services, including ultrasound exams, lives are saved.



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 11

1. PRAY FOR RESOURCES.

Quality ultrasound machines are expensive. Outside of a major financial grant, most centers cannot afford the state of the art technology needed to reach clients most at risk for abortion. Pray that Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and other pro-life events will release funds to these centers.

2. PRAY FOR STAFFING.

Every pregnancy help center that offers ultrasound exams needs a medical director—a doctor or nurse—who can devote at least 15 hours a week to serve clients. Pray that God will raise up local medical personnel to take on the medical director role at local clinics.

3. PRAY FOR ENCOURAGEMENT FOR STAFF.

When a client defies attempts at intervention and chooses abortion, the staff is devastated. Imagine pouring everything you have into saving a child and helping a mother, yet to no avail. Pray that God strengthens the hearts of staff and volunteers who invest their emotions in the service of others.

MEN, LET'S TALK...

— DAY 3 —

The men in our culture have been fed a lie. It goes like this: “Only women have a right to speak on abortion.” It’s time to debunk that lie.

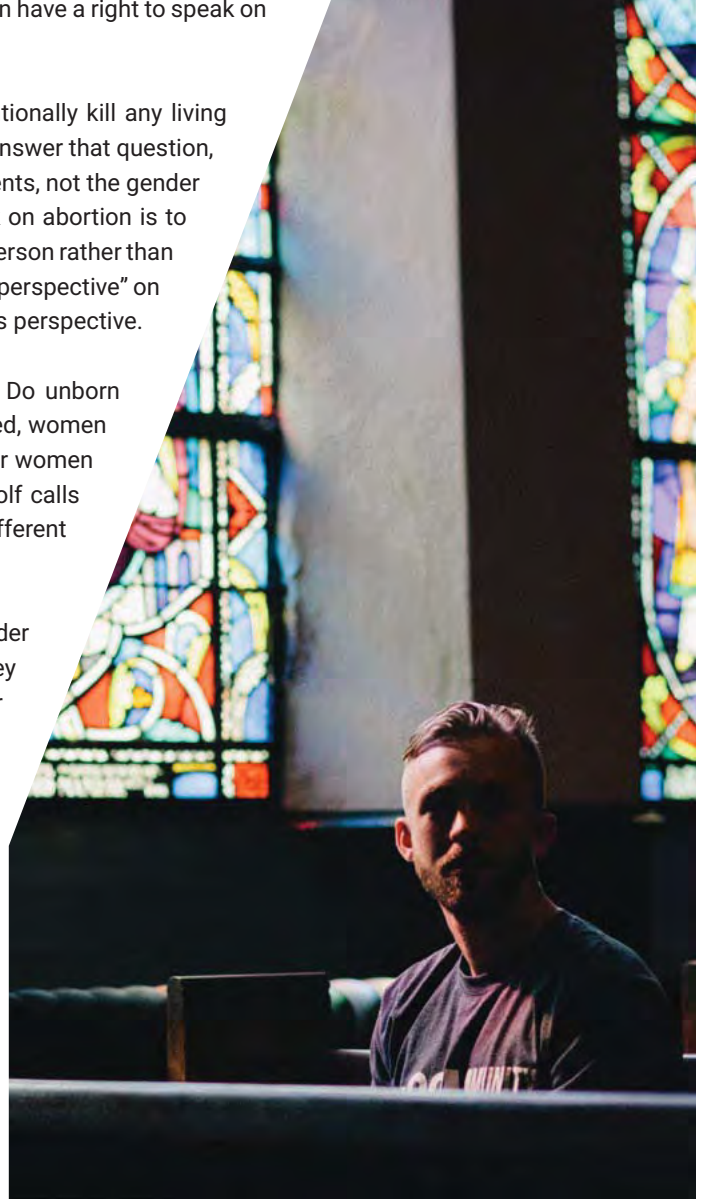
First, it misses the point entirely. Whether it’s right or wrong to intentionally kill any living thing depends on what kind of being it is. Is the unborn one of us? To answer that question, we must examine the validity and soundness of the respective arguments, not the gender of whoever is advancing them. To assert that only women can speak on abortion is to commit what’s called “the ad-hominem fallacy”—that is, attacking the person rather than the argument he or she presents. There is no such thing as a “woman’s perspective” on abortion any more than there is a man’s perspective or a short person’s perspective.

Second, it raises a troubling question: Which women get to speak? Do unborn females get a vote? What about the millions of pro-life women? Indeed, women in general have no single perspective on the issue. This is true even for women who support abortion. For example, self-identified feminist Naomi Wolf calls abortion “a real death,” while feminist Katha Pollitt thinks abortion no different than vacuuming out your house.

Put simply, arguments don’t have gender. People do. And while gender perspectives on abortion help us understand personal experience, they can’t tell us whether abortion is right or wrong. Arguments stand or fall independent of our identity as a woman or a man. If no man can speak on abortion, we need to reverse *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that brought us abortion-on-demand. After all, nine men decided the case!

Third, the case for life is strong! Abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being. Pro-life women and men equally defend that truth with science and philosophy. No wonder our detractors want to change the subject!

If our critics think our case is mistaken, fair enough. Let them do the hard work of refuting it. But taking cheap shots at gender just won’t do the trick.



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 12

1. PRAY THAT MEN WILL HAVE COURAGE.

Huge numbers of Christian men have bought into the lie that they cannot speak out on the issue of abortion, and they are therefore silent. We need compassionate and courageous men in our culture more than ever.

2. PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILIES.

Christian families are not immune to the temptation of the “easy fix” of abortion. Plus, our kids are hearing there are no moral truths, but only personal perspectives on issues like this. Increasingly, they also hear that dads are irrelevant. Pray that God strengthens families in the church.

3. PRAY THAT CHURCHES DEVELOP RESOURCES FOR MEN.

Men draw courage when their strengths are celebrated, and their God-given gifts are affirmed. Many men opt out of church because they feel out of place. Pray that local churches develop strong fellowship and apologetics resources aimed at engaging the hearts AND minds of men with the truth of the pro-life position.

HOW TO PROPOSE A PRO-LIFE VIEW IN THREE EASY STEPS

— DAY 4 —



What if you found yourself in a conversation about your pro-life views. How should you proceed?

- 1. Keep the main issue the main issue:** Pro-life advocates contend that abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being. This simplifies the entire controversy to just one question: Is the unborn a member of the human family? If so, killing him or her to benefit others is a serious moral wrong. Instead of recognizing the inherent moral worth of these human beings, they are treated as nothing more than a disposable instrument. However, if the unborn are not human, elective abortion is fully justified. In short, the abortion debate is not about trusting women to make their own personal decisions, or the right to privacy, or about forcing our morality on others. Thus, the real issue that divides us is clear: Is the unborn one of us?
- 2. Use science:** The facts of embryology establish that from the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. True, they have yet to grow and mature, but they are whole human beings nonetheless. Leading embryology textbooks affirm this. Embryologists Keith L. Moore & T.V.N. Persaud write: "A zygote is the beginning of a new human being. Human development begins at fertilization" and "marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual."
- 3. Use Philosophy:** There is no morally significant difference between the embryo you once were and the adult you

are today that justifies killing you at that earlier stage of development. Differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not good reasons for saying you could be killed then but not now. Stephen Schwarz suggests the acronym SLED as a helpful reminder of those non-essential differences:

Size: You were smaller as an embryo, but does body size determine value? Of course not!

Level of Development: You were less developed as an embryo, but infants are less developed than teenagers physically and mentally. Do we think they have less value? Of course not!

Environment: Where you are has no bearing on what you are. Does an eight inch journey through the birth canal change the essential value of the unborn? Of course not!

Degree of Dependency: You depended on your mother for survival, but does dependence on another human determine value? Of course not! (Consider those with disability, or conjoined twins, for example.)

In short, humans are equal by nature, not by function.

We all differ immensely in our respective degrees of development, but are nonetheless equal because we share a common human nature. We had that human nature from the moment we began to exist. If that isn't true then human equality is a fiction.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 13

1. PRAY THAT THIS ISSUE IS SIMPLIFIED.

Abortion is seen as morally complex, but it's really not. The status of the unborn is key. Pray that voters, friends, and family members are not distracted by side issues that miss the point entirely.

2. PRAY FOR COURAGE.

We all know how hard it can be to speak about this issue when we have the opportunity. Pray that you and your family, and your pro-life friends would have confidence in the truth and act when called upon to do so.

3. PRAY FOR ACCESS.

Pray that pro-life faculty in secular universities will have academic freedom to present a persuasive pro-life case to the age group most at risk for abortion.



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ABORTION?

DAY 5

You may have heard that Scripture is silent on abortion, and that the passages cited by pro-life advocates do not actually state that the unborn are human. Thus, the reasoning goes, given the choice between a self-aware woman and a developing fetus, only the former bears God's image and thus has value.

Let's suppose for a moment the Bible is silent. Does that mean it supports abortion? There are good reasons to say no.

First, gay bashing is never expressly condemned in Scripture, but Christians almost universally agree it's wrong. Indeed, the Bible's alleged silence on abortion does not mean that its authors condoned the practice, but that prohibitions against it were largely unnecessary. The Hebrews of the Old Testament and Christians of the New were not likely to kill their offspring before birth.

Second, we don't need Scripture to expressly say the unborn are human before we can know it's wrong to intentionally take their lives. The Bible affirms that all humans are God's image bearers (Genesis 1:27; James 3:9) and, because they are, the intentional killing of innocent human beings is forbidden (Exodus 23:7; Prov. 6: 16-19). The facts of science make clear that from the earliest stages of development the unborn are unquestionably human. Therefore, biblical commands against the unjust taking of human life apply to the unborn as they do other human beings.

Third, abortion-choice advocates cannot account for basic human equality. If humans only have value because of some developed characteristic like self-awareness, it follows that since that characteristic comes in varying degrees, basic human rights come in varying degrees. Theologically, it's far more reasonable to argue that although humans differ immensely in their respective degrees of development, they are nonetheless equal because they share a common human nature made in the image of God.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 14

1. PRAY FOR SALVATION.

We do not need an excuse for our sin. We need an exchange—Christ's righteousness for our sinfulness (2 Cor. 5:21). Pray that people are not deceived by a false gospel. We are sinners, but Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32). James Montgomery Boice puts it well: "The most important thing in life is to know that Jesus is able to save you from sin. The second most important thing is to know that you require it." Pray that post-abortion men and women see their true need.

2. PRAY FOR PASTORS AND OTHER CLERGY.

Too many pastors who say they are pro-life hedge their teaching on abortion because they fear backlash. Pastors should always approach abortion with biblical compassion, but when they are silent, Christians are not equipped to engage the culture with biblical truth. Pray that God would grant the pastors in your community courage to teach the entire counsel of Scripture, including commands against the shedding of innocent blood.

3. PRAY FOR CLARITY.

Pro-lifers must not only contend with the secular culture, we also must contend with the distortion of Scripture. Pray for clearly stated arguments that cannot be easily dismissed by those seeking to distort Scripture and justify sin.

KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

— DAY 6 —



Joe found the young girl unconscious in her upstairs closet. By the time he got there, the structure was a raging inferno. No one else dared go inside. But Joe scooped up the girl, and took his only exit, straight out the second story window into the bushes below. The girl lived.

Joe sustained three cuts and two sprained ankles—and an avalanche of questions. The media wanted to know how he planned to pay for the girl’s food, clothing, and health care now that he’d rescued her. A pastor asked if time spent saving the girl from temporal flames might be better spent saving people from eternal ones. The social justice coordinator at a local parish insisted that if Joe truly cared about saving lives, he’d care about all life and spend equal time rescuing poor workers from rich corporations. The local Congressman asked if Joe supported tax hikes aimed at reducing fire risk.

Joe just kept looking at the girl.

The above story is contrived, but a similar scenario is played out in the public square every single day. Only the issue is abortion.

Like Joe, pro-lifers face questions from critics: “Are you willing to adopt all these unwanted kids you don’t want aborted?” Or,

“Why do you only care about babies before they are born?” For the most part, the questions are not designed to promote understanding. They are carefully engineered to silence pro-life advocates. They are distractions from the main issue. They attack the pro-lifer rather than dealing with the issue of abortion.

The attacks are completely false. Pro-life Christians do care. For example, pro-life pregnancy centers now outnumber abortion clinics two to one. These centers—funded in large measure by concerned pro-lifers—provide many abortion alternatives including parenting classes, baby clothes, and adoption services. And, studies show that pro-life citizens give more to charity than their pro-abortion counterparts.

But even if pro-lifers didn’t have this track record, how does it follow that because we oppose abortion, we must take personal responsibility for all of life’s ills? Imagine saying to the American Cancer Society, “You have no right to oppose cancer unless you also work to oppose all illnesses such as diabetes, Chron’s Disease, and Heart attacks? It’s absurd!

Just as Joe kept his eyes on the girl, we must keep ours on the unborn. Nothing can justify the intentional taking of innocent life.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 15

1. PRAY FOR GOD’S PROVISION.

Planned Parenthood gets millions each year in tax dollars, but pro-life pregnancy centers get none. Pray that churches and benefactors would stand with them so their efforts to reach abortion-minded women could grow.

2. PRAY FOR PRO-LIFERS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE.

Public servants who oppose abortion are constantly attacked for not doing enough to help the poor. Pray that they stay on message: Abortion is wrong because it intentionally kills an innocent human being. And that’s why government policy should encourage private charities rather than undermine them.

3. PRAY FOR LEGAL COVERING.

Increasingly, pro-life pregnancy centers are under attack from hostile politicians. California, for example, just passed a law requiring these centers to refer for abortion. Pray for a successful reversal of all unjust laws like this one.



PASSING PRO-LIFE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

— DAY 7 —

It was heartbreaking news for the young couple. The results of amniocentesis testing turned the joy of being expectant parents to dread at the life ahead of them. They made the decision that nearly 90% of parents make after learning an unborn child may have Down Syndrome: abortion.

Father Vanderwoude would not have it, however. He contacted the parents, begging them to choose life. He would find adoptive parents, he assured them. They were doubtful, especially since there was only a short time before the pregnancy would be in the third trimester, and their state prohibited late-term abortions.

Father Vanderwoude took to social media and his tireless efforts worked. Adoptive parents were found, and the child was allowed to live. But there's more to this story.

One of Father Vanderwoude's five brothers has Down Syndrome. And a few years earlier, this brother fell through the ground into a rusted septic tank. He was drowning in sewage. His Dad jumped in to save him. He held his disabled son's head above the sewage until the boy could be rescued, but the Dad died performing this heroic act.

Why was Father Vanderwoude so intent on saving the life of that unborn child with Down Syndrome? How did he become the sort of pro-life advocate that not only talked the talk, but when he could, walked the walk? It would seem he inherited it from his dad, who not only taught him the inherent dignity of all life with words, but by his actions.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 16

1. PRAY FOR PARENTS.

The pro-life movement now features young activists who are both committed and creative about defending life. Most learned it from their parents. Pray that moms and dads would teach and model the truth about the inherent dignity of every life, so that their kids would learn to embrace it too.

2. PRAY FOR CHILDREN IN THE WOMB DIAGNOSED WITH DOWN SYNDROME OR OTHER MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

Too often, tests like amniocentesis become a justification for taking life rather than a means of helping. Pray that God would supernaturally protect these children.

3. PRAY THAT GOD CALLS MEN AND WOMEN TO THE MINISTRY OF BIOETHICS.

Medical technology allows us to see inside the womb like never before, which protects some children while putting others at risk. Pray that God raises up thoughtful, talented medical professionals to point expectant parents in a life-affirming direction.

GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT



WEEK 2

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

— DAY 8 —

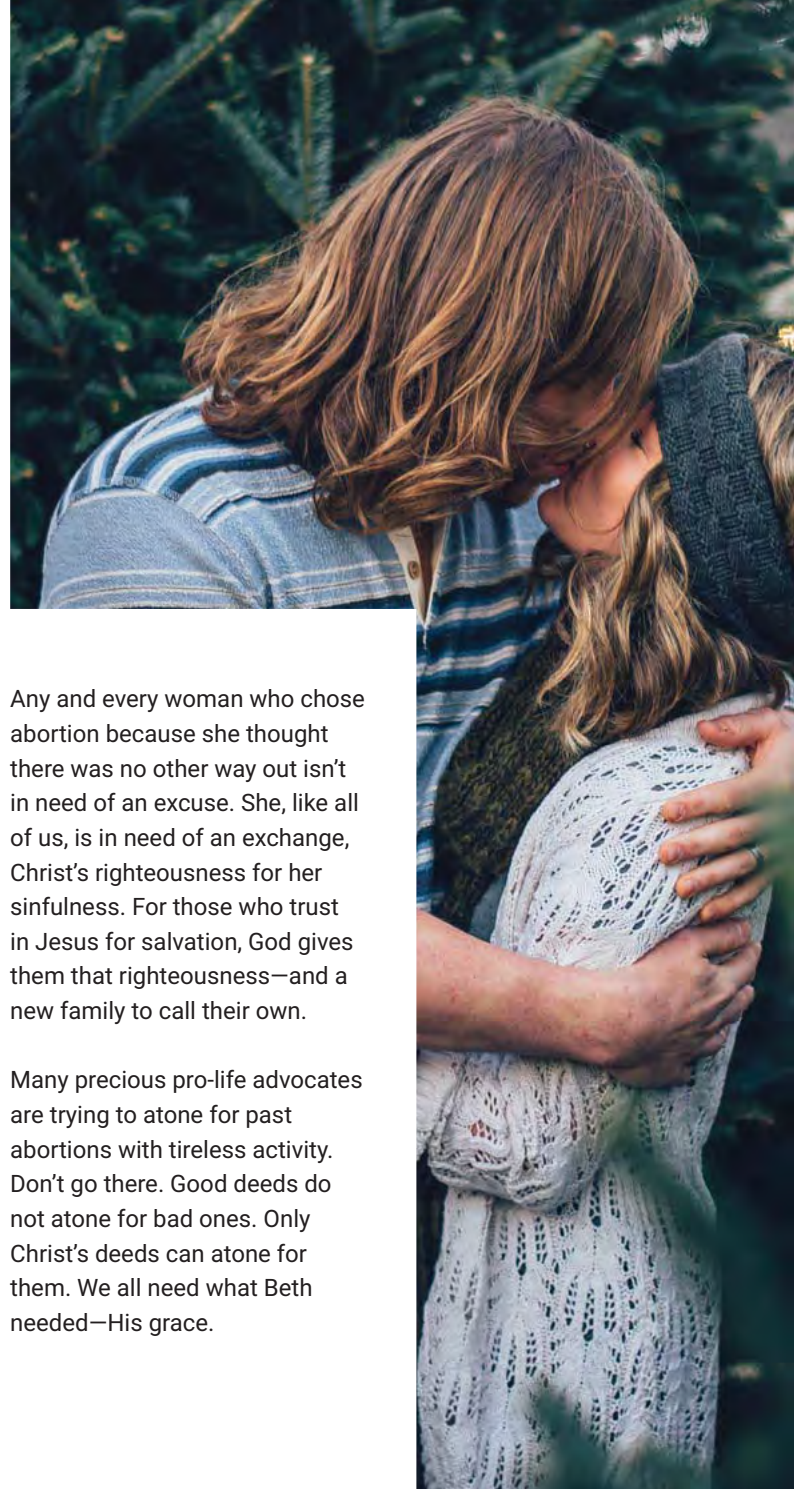
Beth's story was familiar. A young Christian woman falls for a non-Christian guy and bad choices follow. Lots of them. Soon, she was pregnant. Her boyfriend threatened to abandon her if she didn't abort. Her parents wouldn't understand. And she was only 19. She made her choice 12 weeks into the pregnancy. The tears begin. "I can't believe I did that to my child."

The Bible is clear. Sin is our natural orientation. It's not just that we do bad things. It's far worse. We are bad by nature. We don't start off innocent and break bad. We begin bad and stay that way. "The human heart is desperately wicked; who can know it?" laments the prophet Jeremiah. That's Beth's problem. That's your problem and my problem. And the only fix is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

That gospel tells us that a good and holy God created humans to worship and enjoy him forever. But we rebelled against our creator, set ourselves up as God. But God, who had every right to destroy the race for its rebellion against Him, did something remarkable. He sent Jesus, the sinless one, the second member of the Godhead, to bear in full His righteous wrath against sin.

We may bristle at that word "wrath" because it reminds us of an angry parent or vengeful authority figure. But God's wrath is not an uncontrolled explosion of rage; it's His settled hatred of sin. And if God is holy and just, He can't sweep sin under the rug. He must punish it. And He did punish it, by crushing His Son on a cross for your sin and mine.

That is incredibly good news for those who've sinned by having an abortion. But the news gets even better. For those who trust Jesus for forgiveness, God the Father adopts them into His family as dearly loved sons and daughters.



Any and every woman who chose abortion because she thought there was no other way out isn't in need of an excuse. She, like all of us, is in need of an exchange, Christ's righteousness for her sinfulness. For those who trust in Jesus for salvation, God gives them that righteousness—and a new family to call their own.

Many precious pro-life advocates are trying to atone for past abortions with tireless activity. Don't go there. Good deeds do not atone for bad ones. Only Christ's deeds can atone for them. We all need what Beth needed—His grace.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 18

1. PRAY FOR POST-ABORTION WOMEN.

There are thousands of them out there, who need to trust in the saving work of Christ as their only hope. Pray that they find Him. Pray for those who have courageously confessed their past sin of abortion, that they will know God's peace. Pray for those who have not yet confessed their past sin of abortion, that God's grace will draw them to repentance.

2. PRAY FOR THOSE MINISTERING TO POST-ABORTION WOMEN.

Churches and pregnancy centers can offer effective post-abortion counseling that is gospel-driven and biblically sound. Pray that God will expand His work through them in reaching those women who need to know there is forgiveness and healing.

3. PRAY THAT GOD WILL RAISE UP MORE POST-ABORTION SERVICES.

There are many churches and care centers that need to expand their work into this area of post-abortion ministry. Pray for laborers, funding, and initiative to do so.

FIVE CLIENTS

DAY 9

Each day, pregnancy care centers across the nation will work with five types of abortion-minded clients.

Client #1 responds to loving support. She's scared and feels alone in her pregnancy, and she needs to know that people will stand by her. Once she's convinced she'll have the help, love and support she needs, abortion is no longer an option. Her baby is safe.

Client #2 responds to loving support and information. She realizes how disruptive a pregnancy will be for her life, but has never really thought through what abortion actually is. Once she learns about fetal

development and abortion procedures, she chooses life. Her baby is safe.

Client #3 responds to loving support, information, and a chance to connect with her child. She knows in her mind that she's carrying a new life inside, but she struggles to think past the moment of crisis she is facing. For her, ultrasound plays a pivotal role. Once she sees her child, a bond is made. Her baby is safe.

Client #4 rejects the loving support and is unmoved by information and the ultrasound, but she responds when given verbal and visual descriptions of abortion that were graciously presented with her

full knowledge and support. For her, like many of us, seeing is believing. Her baby is safe.

Client #5 hardens her heart to all forms of intervention and chooses abortion.



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 19

1. PRAY FOR WISDOM.

Counselors and caregivers need wisdom to discern where abortion-minded women are on the spectrum described above. Pray that God grants them wisdom as He promised.

2. PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITY.

A major obstacle for pregnancy care centers and counselors is reaching an abortion-minded woman before she makes the irreversible decision to abort her child. Pray that God makes all of us aware of those around us who might be vulnerable.

3. PRAY FOR COMFORT.

Sometimes, even after a counselor and caregiver exhaust all of their resources, abortion is still chosen. This is heartbreaking and discouraging. Pray that God comforts those who put their hearts and minds on the line for life each day.



HARD CASES

DAY 10

After an exhausting three days of speaking, I landed an exit-row seat on the 757 for the flight home. This was no ordinary exit row. It was the one near the rear with plenty of room to stretch out and nap.

But there would be no nap on this flight. To my left was a vacationing couple, who in their 50's and all decked out in party hats and shirts, were headed for a cruise. The wife did not look happy, and her husband warned me up front: "She is terrified of flying. She will talk you to death."

That she did. It didn't help that I boarded the plane carrying (rather than stowing) Chris Kaczor's excellent book, *The Ethics of Abortion*. Seizing on the title, she was off to the races. "So, you study abortion? Interesting. I'm not for it, but I don't see how anyone could tell a woman who is raped that it's wrong to have one."

Figuring my anticipated nap was not forthcoming, I engaged:

"Tell me, when rape results in pregnancy, how many humans do you think are involved in that pregnancy—two or three?"

"Two...no, three [turning to her husband], three, right? Ya, three."

"I agree. Let's talk about each one. Is the rapist guilty and does he

deserve to be punished?"

"Yes, totally."

"Agreed. Should we execute him for the rape?"

"No! I'm against the death penalty. He should be in jail for a long time, maybe forever." (Husband jumps in with a smile: "Honey, stop now. This isn't going to end well for you.")

"Is the woman guilty? Should we execute her for the rape?"

"Of course not! That's terrible! That's what those Muslim countries do—what do they call those things, honor killings?—where the woman gets raped and her husband or father kills her because she's defiled the family name. That's just plain evil."

"Agreed. Now what about her unborn offspring, is he guilty?"

"No."

"So of the three people involved in the pregnancy resulting from rape, you won't execute the guilty rapist but you will execute the innocent child?"

[Husband nodding, immediately grasping my point]

"Oh. Let me think about this for a minute..."

We had a pleasant conversation. Given we both agreed the unborn were human, the question was simple: How should a civil society treat innocent human beings that remind us of a painful event? Is it okay to kill them so we can feel better?

As my talkative seatmate rightfully pointed out, we must never dismiss the rape victim's feelings. But, hardship doesn't justify the intentional taking of innocent life. We'd never allow the killing of toddlers who remind us of painful events, and if the unborn are also members of the human family, we should not kill them to make someone else feel better. Often, the right thing to do is not the easy thing to do. And what's right depends on the question: What is the unborn? We can't get around it.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 20

1. PRAY FOR PREGNANCY CENTER COUNSELORS, PASTORS, AND OTHERS WHO COUNSEL VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.

Pray God grants them wisdom to compassionately engage victims with healing truth, and courage to speak the hard truths when necessary.

2. PRAY FOR MORAL CLARITY.

Questions about rape and other exceptional cases are used to distract from the fact that the "pro-choice" position is that abortion should be legal for any reason or no reason through all nine months of pregnancy. Pray the public sees how radical the abortion agenda is. Pray that pro-life speakers and politicians give compelling answers that demonstrate compassion for both mother and child.

3. PRAY FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

There are many victims of rape and incest in our culture, which has embraced the illusion of sexual "freedom" without consequence. Pray that the church will, truthfully and lovingly, demonstrate the true freedom found in Christ and His design for sexuality and marriage.



GOD HID HER

DAY 11

Sarah's mother tried to abort her. In fact, she aborted her brother, but Sarah survived because neither her mother, nor her mother's doctor, realized her brother was a twin. Sarah survived because they did not realize she was there. Sarah now shares her story with audiences:

My tiny brother and I were both there growing in her womb, until that dreadful day. Moments later, I was alone.

Several weeks later, my mother was sitting at home reading when the book on her stomach began to bounce up and down. That's when she knew she was still pregnant—with ME! She went back to the doctor and told him that she wanted to keep this baby.

To this day, my mother deeply regrets that abortion. I know the pain is unbearable for her at times when she looks at me and knows she aborted my twin brother. Mom says God's hand covered and hid me in her womb, and protected me from the scalpel of death.

Today, the pain continues for everyone in my family. I have forgiven my parents for trying to abort me, and I forgive the abortionist who killed my twin brother and who almost killed me. In memory of my brother Andrew, we

bought a memorial gravestone and placed it in a cemetery in Southern California. It reads:

ANDREW JAMES SMITH, TWIN
BROTHER OF SARAH -- IN OUR
HEARTS YOU'LL ALWAYS BE ALIVE --
NOVEMBER 1970

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 21

1. PRAY FOR ABORTION SURVIVORS.

Many still deal with the pain. Many are pro-life speakers. Their stories are important, both for healing and to help others choose life. Pray that their stories would be heard.

2. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO CARRY THE GUILT OF ABORTION.

Sarah puts it well: Only biblical truth can heal wounded souls. Pray for those in your church who carry post-abortion shame, including moms, dads, grandparents, and siblings.

3. PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR SIBLINGS OF THE ABORTED.

We are just learning of the emotional challenges that siblings of the aborted deal with: guilt, fear, loss. Decades after Roe v. Wade, these siblings number in the millions. Pray that they will find healing, and be used by God to bring peace and forgiveness to their families and to others.

MEN, WE NEED TO TALK, CONTINUED...

DAY 12

The biggest obstacle many men face to providing leadership on confronting abortion is personal guilt. Perhaps it was an old girlfriend. Perhaps it was even a wife or a daughter. Men try to forget the role they played, but the memory of that unborn child won't go away.

Because of guilt, many men believe they have lost credibility to speak out on pro-life issues.

They could not be more mistaken. The gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that everyone reading this sentence deserves judgment. In a thousand different ways, every last one of us has rebelled against our Creator who made us for His glory. That any of us are breathing right now is a sheer act of His grace.

In the dark western "Unforgiven," starring Clint Eastwood as Will Munny, Will's young sidekick, the Schofield Kid, kills a man. He is shaken by second thoughts. Munny's response is devastating.

Munny: It's a hell of a thing, killing a man...
Kid: Yeah, well, I guess they had it coming.
Munny: We all got it coming, kid.

In Luke 13, Jesus Christ spoke of a tower that fell on unsuspecting people. He did not say the victims deserved to die while

everyone else did not. Instead, He gave this stunning response: "If you don't repent, all of you will likewise perish." Jesus said that everyone has it coming. And if we don't repent, we, too, will perish.

Justification is our only way out. In response to our rebellion, God the Father sends Jesus to bear in full the judgment we deserve. Those who repent of their sins and trust Christ for salvation are declared righteous by God the Father, but not because of anything they have done. Rather, God removes their guilt based on Christ's righteousness.

Martin Luther used the legendary example of a dunghill to describe our sinful state: ugly and offensive, having nothing in itself that would commend it to anyone, let

alone God. Justification is like the first snowfall of winter that covers everything, including the dunghill, in a blanket of pure white. The smell is gone. The repulsive sight is gone. The dunghill is still a dunghill, but it's covered.

Christ covers us with His own pure and spotless righteousness as the blanket that covers our sin in the sight of the Father. Christ's righteousness is imputed to us, removing our guilt and covering our offense. Of course, we remain sinners and need the work of sanctification to conform us to the image of Christ. But our sins are no longer held against us.

If you're in Christ, you can talk about abortion. Whatever your past, you're covered.



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 22

1. PRAY FOR MEN WHO CARRY ABORTION SHAME.

Ask God to capture them with the glorious truth of justification. Pray that their shame is replaced with the confidence that comes, not through their own efforts, but through Christ who covers them with His righteousness.

2. PRAY FOR PASTORS TO TEACH, PREACH, AND COUNSEL THAT ABORTION IS SIN.

Not in order to beat up post-abortion men emotionally, but so that they may be pointed to the remedy found in the gospel.

3. PRAY THAT MEN HEALED FROM THE SIN OF ABORTION WILL FIND THEIR NEW-FOUND FREEDOM TO TALK ABOUT ABORTION AND FORGIVENESS.

Pray that God will use their redeemed lives to point others to the freedom found only in Christ.

AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARTS AND MINDS TO BE CHANGED

— DAY 13 —

We live in a remarkable moment. Right now, for the first time, the world is starting to see. A series of undercover videos has radically unsettled an abortion-tolerating public. The videos depict Planned Parenthood abortion clinic workers trafficking in fetal remains of unborn human beings. The videos also depict abortion.

Pictures have the potential to change how people feel about the practice while facts and arguments can change how they think. Both are vital in changing behavior. Journalist and criminology professor Mike Adams, a former pro-choice atheist, explains how “seeing” changed his perspective years ago:

I am one of those former pro-choicers persuaded solely by the images.

After I saw an abortion procedure via ultrasound no further argument was necessary. The case was closed. The film showed me that pro-abortion choice advocates had been lying to me about that “blob of tissue.”

Mike is not alone. He describes how a non-Christian friend has also begun to see.

I have been involved in a four-year conversation on abortion with a friend of

mine who is both younger and much more politically liberal than I am. At the beginning of that conversation he fully denied the humanity of the unborn and supported abortion with no restrictions whatsoever. That conversation was put on hold for three months (as it is every summer) while I was away in Colorado.

When I returned in August, my friend met me at a local shop to watch a baseball game. He sat down next to me and said, “Well, I’ve come a long way on the abortion issue.” He then announced that he had changed his position to pro-life with exceptions only for rape and preservation of the life of the mother. In other words, he now opposes abortion in about 98% of the cases, not 0%. I call that progress.

Naturally, I asked him what had brought about the sudden change. He looked at me and told me that it was the Planned Parenthood videos...It was the images that stirred his emotions and then changed his position.

Now more than ever, Christians must pray that the world will see abortion. We’ve been handed an opportunity to shine the light on darkness. But we must act. Lives hang in the balance.



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 23

1. PRAY FOR EXPOSURE.

Pray that the undercover videos that exposed abortion to the public will not be censored by the courts or by hostile media. Pray that God will use these clips far and wide to change hearts and minds.

2. PRAY FOR CULTURAL RETHINKING.

Like Mike’s friend who is not a Christian, pray that millions of unchurched people might see right and wrong as real and objective. Pray that realization points them toward the Moral Law-Giver who alone offers salvation.

3. PRAY FOR PASTORAL CARE.

Hiding the truth does not spare post-abortion men and women from guilt. It spares them healing. Unconfessed sin is keeping them out of full fellowship with their Savior. Pray that pastors and clergy use the horror of abortion to point people to their need for the gospel.

IF YOU'VE GOT A MINUTE, YOU CAN DEFEND LIFE.

DAY 14

Did you know that can make a pro-life case in 60 seconds or less? Here's how to do it:

I am pro-life because the science of embryology establishes that from the earliest stages of development, you were a distinct, living, and whole human being. And there is no essential difference between the embryo you once were and the adult you are today that justifies killing you at that earlier stage of development. Differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not good reasons for saying you could be killed then but not now.

That one-minute case is not plucked out of thin air. It's rock-solid. It's based on a syllogism. Don't let that word frighten you. A syllogism is simply a formal way of presenting your case with a series of premises (statements). If the premises are true, the conclusion follows. All good arguments can be put in a syllogism. The pro-life syllogism looks like this.

- P1:** It is wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being.
P2: Abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being.
P3: Therefore, abortion is wrong.

The support for that syllogism is strong.



First, science affirms the unborn are human. Embryologists Ronan O'Rahilly and Fabiola Müller write, "Although life is a continuous process, fertilization is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new, genetically distinct human organism is thereby formed."

Second, that the unborn are innocent goes without saying. Dependent human beings at that stage of development cannot intentionally harm anyone. Abortion-choicers sometimes reply that the high number of miscarriages proves abortion is morally permissible. But that's nonsense. Just because nature spontaneously aborts high numbers of embryos does not mean that they are not living human beings or that I may intentionally kill them! Many

Third World countries have high infant mortality rates, but it doesn't follow that those infants aren't human.

Admittedly, miscarriages are tragic. But as journalist Andrew Sullivan points out, just because earthquakes happen doesn't mean mass murder is justified.

In fact did you know that leading abortion-choice advocates affirm abortion is intentional killing? Feminist Camille Paglia writes, "Hence I have always frankly admitted that abortion is murder, the extermination of the powerless by the powerful. Liberals for the most part have shrunk from facing the ethical consequences of their embrace of abortion, which results in the annihilation of concrete individuals and not just clumps of insensate tissue." And Ronald Dworkin states, "Abortion deliberately kills a developing embryo" and is "a choice for death." Author Naomi Wolf candidly admits, and encouraged other abortion advocates to admit that "the death of the fetus is a real death" and wants other abortion-choice advocates to do the same. Abortionist Warren Hern once told a Planned Parenthood conference, "We have reached a point in this particular technology [D&E abortion] where there is no possibility of denying an act of destruction. It is before one's eyes. The sensations of dismemberment flow through the forceps like an electric current."

Therefore, the conclusion follows: Abortion is wrong.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 24

1. PRAY FOR MORAL AWAKENING.

Although the authors above frankly admit that abortion intentionally kills a human fetus, they refuse to accept the conclusion that logically follows. They aren't stupid. **They are blind.** Pray that God opens eyes to the moral truth about abortion.

2. PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.

Pray that God finds those that are blinded and makes them spiritually alive through the new birth. They don't need religion. They need life!

3. PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES.

Ask God to give you "divine appointments" to share the truth about life with others, and that He would open the hearts and minds of those you encounter!

REMEMBERING THE HEROES & CARING FOR THE VICTIMS



WEEK 3



UNSUNG HEROES

DAY 15

"When I found out that I was pregnant, I cried and cried," Versie told the crowd at the Options Pregnancy Center banquet. Desperate for a quick fix, she scheduled an abortion at a local clinic. "That's when a friend just happened to give me the number of Options Pregnancy Center and that sweet lady Vikki."

Vikki remembers that day. Finally heading home after a long, tiring day at the office, she was stopped by an after-hours phone message. "I am 36 with six children of my own already," the message stated. "I took

a home pregnancy test and I am pregnant with my seventh. How much is it for an abortion? And how soon can I have it done?"

Because a pregnancy resource center director is never really off the clock, Vickie turned around, headed back to the office, and met Versie that night for an after-hours pregnancy test and counseling session.

Once the second test confirmed the pregnancy, the center's Director of Client Services, Amber walked Versie through her choices. "She talked to me about abortion, the procedure, the side effects, and the regrets. Amber and Vikki didn't push me, but told me to go home and think about what

they'd said. That night, I read the booklet they gave me cover to cover."

Because of Vikki and Amber's after-hours faithfulness, Versie chose life. "I continued to cry for days and I prayed like never before. I finally came to the conclusion that abortion was wrong, so I had to trust God in this."

And she didn't have to go it alone. "God really came through for me. The staff at Options is friendly, God-fearing, honest, and totally trustworthy. When I was so distraught I couldn't think straight, they gently led me in the right direction. I thank God for the women at Options. They saved my life. They saved my baby."

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 26

1. PRAY FOR THE STAFF AT YOUR LOCAL PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS.

Sadly, many pregnancy center directors burn out in their first three years. The emotional, financial, and organizational stress can be a crushing load. Pray that local churches would increase their financial support for these centers so directors can focus on leading their organizations from a position of strength.

2. PRAY THAT ABORTION-MINDED WOMEN WOULD FIND OUT ABOUT THESE CENTERS.

To better reach abortion-minded women, pregnancy centers are expanding their client services to include a full complement of medical options such as ultrasound, STD testing, and prenatal care. Pray God sends these centers qualified medical staff, and pray that local Christians would become champions who promote their services to needy women.

3. PRAY FOR PROTECTION.

Planned Parenthood, mainstream media, and other pro-abortion individuals often try to scare women away from pregnancy centers. They falsely accuse the centers of misinformation and malpractice. While pregnancy centers certainly highlight the nature of abortion, they do not lie about it. Pray that God protects these centers as they are on the front lines of this very important work.



BEYOND THE SLOGANS: WHY YOUR FRIENDS ARE PRO-CHOICE

DAY 16

"Don't like abortion? Don't have one!"

Perhaps you've seen those exact words on a bumper sticker or on a social media post. It's a message that resonates with millions of Americans.

But it's a sham.

First, this slogan distorts the moral nature of the abortion debate with a single word—"like." When pro-life advocates claim that abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being, they aren't saying they dislike abortion. They are saying it's objectively wrong regardless of how one feels about it. This slogan makes it sound as if the pro-lifer were talking about ice cream! But this misses the point entirely.

Second, the logic of the slogan falls apart with a moment's reflection. Imagine if I said, "Don't like slavery? Don't own a slave!"

Or, "Don't like spousal abuse? Well, don't beat your wife!" You would immediately realize I don't grasp why slavery and spousal abuse are wrong. They are not wrong because I personally dislike them. They are wrong because slaves and spouses are intrinsically valuable human beings who have a fundamental right not to be treated as property. Whether I personally like slavery or spousal abuse is completely beside the point. If I liked spousal abuse, you would rightly say I was sick! You wouldn't resign yourself to, "I guess abuse is right for you but not for me."

And yet this slogan reduces abortion to a mere preference and then declares, "Hands off! You can personally oppose abortion, but you can't say it's wrong for me!"

That won't work. When a student at Colgate University said she was personally against abortion but wanted to keep it legal, I

asked a very simple question: "Why are you personally against abortion?" When she replied, "Because it's killing, and I personally think it's wrong to do that," I asked: "What does abortion kill?" She was hesitant, but honest: "Um, I guess a human being?"

She was right to hesitate. If abortion doesn't kill a human being, why be opposed at all? I gently pressed the point: "Let me see if I understand you correctly. You're personally against abortion because you think it intentionally kills an innocent human being, but you want it to be legal to intentionally kill that human being?"

"I don't know. I'm still trying to figure that out."

That one question—"why do you personally oppose abortion?"—transformed the conversation from a discussion of likes and dislikes to one about right and wrong. Remember that the next time you encounter a slogan posing as an argument.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 27

1. PRAY FOR YOUR PRO-CHOICE FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS.

Millions of Americans have accepted abortion without thinking about it. Pray for opportunities to persuasively challenge that mindset with thought provoking questions.

2. PRAY FOR WOMEN FACING UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES.

What they constantly hear is, "Only you can decide what's right for your situation." That's a lie. Ask God to grant pregnancy center workers, friends, neighbors, and counselors the wisdom to lovingly present the truth to them.

3. PRAY FOR COURAGE.

We want God to awaken the moral imagination of the culture to see abortion as a human rights issue, not a preference one. For that to happen, we must speak up when we have the opportunity to do so, lovingly and truthfully.

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE!

— DAY 17 —

Nick was elected Student Body President at his university, but before he was even sworn-in, critics were calling for his resignation.

The reason? He had written an editorial for the school newspaper defending a pro-life display on campus. When pro-abortion students objected to the exhibit, Walter deftly defended the pro-life students by zeroing in on the core issue:

The question is, then, Are the unborn human? I believe yes (according to science, not religion, by the way).

He then reminded critics about the First Amendment:

There are a lot of things that I don't like hearing. Does that give me the right to shut up whoever is saying them? Absolutely not. Whether we like what's being said or not, [the display] is protected by the First Amendment, just like we are.

The response from his critics only escalated. They claimed Nick had "created a hostile environment" that "forced students to drop out of school." He continued to receive demands to resign or, at a minimum, apologize for being "offensive" and making the campus "unsafe." Even his vice president and the faculty advisor for the Student Congress insisted he give one.

Nick's reply was short and to the point: "I have not apologized and I will not apologize."



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 28

1. PRAY FOR STUDENTS WHO STAND FOR LIFE ON HOSTILE CAMPUSES.

Pray these students not only find strength to lead, but take joy doing so knowing God is grooming them to make a kingdom impact.

2. PRAY FOR MORE STUDENTS WILLING TO TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE.

Over the past several years, pro-life groups on campuses have seen an increase in membership. Pray that God continues to call students to the cause for life.

3. PRAY FOR THE GROUPS WHO DEFEND STUDENT RIGHTS ON HOSTILE CAMPUSES.

Students courageous enough to stand for life on campuses can face, like Nick has, hostility and discrimination. Students have seen grades unjustly reduced, leadership positions stripped, and barriers to completing their programs. Pray for groups who defend the religious liberty of students on campus.

A FATHER'S GOODBYE

DAY 18

Often, people say abortion is a woman's issue. They're forgetting someone.

Theo brought his girlfriend to a local pregnancy center to explore alternatives to abortion. From the start, he wanted the child and pledged his support. His own mother offered to help, too. None of that mattered. His girlfriend was bent on abortion, even after the ultrasound. Theo described what he saw:

Our child was at 8 weeks gestation and had fingers, toes, eyes, everything. I saw and heard my child's heart beat, and I cried. It was an overwhelming and beautiful experience for me until my girlfriend looked at me and said, "What are you crying about? Worms have heartbeats too." She insisted on an abortion as soon as possible. Her sister was paying for everything. She then informed me our relationship was over.

I called the abortion clinic and asked about my rights; they said, "You don't have any, and don't call back." I then asked, "What do you do with the aborted babies? I want to bury my child." They told me that it wasn't a child, it was a fetus, and to never call again or

they would involve the police, and if I showed up on Saturday to try to stop my girlfriend from having an abortion, they would have me arrested. My hands were tied. As father, I had no legal right to protect my own child from a death committed by a "doctor." I called everyone imaginable to see what my rights were, and I got the same answer: "You have none!"



The week before my child was aborted, I tried one more conversation with my girlfriend. But she was adamant about having an abortion and told me to leave. I asked her if I could do one last thing before departing. I got on my knees and kissed the stomach of the mother of my child and said, "I love you, and Daddy will see you in heaven." I then took the ultrasound pictures and left.

Theo's child was aborted on the afternoon of December 2nd, 2006. He found no support from his friends and even contemplated suicide.

But God didn't abandon Theo. In the midst of the pain, he was invited to a post-abortion Bible study. "Those were the only people who understood me," Theo said. Today, he is a healed man. He's married and serves as the Executive Director of a Crisis Pregnancy Center, where his own story saves many from abortion.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 29

1. PRAY FOR DADS WHO HAVE NO VOICE.

When it comes to abortion, grieving men are told to get over it. They are shamed into silence. Pray that hurting men find caring mentors and strong fellowship to facilitate healing.

2. PRAY FOR CULTURAL CHANGE.

Our culture rightfully expects dads to pay child-support when they father a child, but gives them no rights as to whether that child should live. Men are expected to have no voice in the cultural debate over abortion. Pray that men courageously speak up, and that their voices are heard.

3. PRAY THAT GOD REDEEMS THE STORIES OF POST-ABORTIVE MEN.

Men who have experienced the loss of a child through abortion can have a powerful voice to other men in similar situations. Pray that men who have experienced healing would be willing to help others.

OPENING THE CASKET ON HIDDEN EVILS

DAY 19

Most Americans were not talking about racial injustice in July of 1955. A month later, they couldn't stop talking about it. Why? Because they had seen it.

In August of 1955, Emmett, a 14 year-old African-American youth from Chicago, visited his cousin in the town of Money, Mississippi. While there, he bragged to his cousin and others about his white girl friend back in Chicago. They weren't buying. After all, African-Americans in Mississippi during the 50s didn't make eye contact with whites, let alone date them! Both actions were considered completely out of bounds.

On August 24, Emmett, his cousin, and a small group of black males entered Bryant's Grocery (a tiny convenience store) where, egged-on by the others, Emmett briefly flirted with a 21 year-old white, married clerk behind the counter. After purchasing gum, he either whistled or said something mildly flirtatious. (Reports vary.) The cousin and others witnessing the event warned Emmett that there would be trouble. Two nights later, Emmett was taken at gun-point from his uncle's home by the clerk's husband and another man. They savagely beat him for hours before ending his life with a single bullet to the head.

Later that week, Emmett's body was found in the Tallahatchie River. He had been beaten almost beyond recognition. The local Sheriff placed Emmett's body in a wooden box and shipped it back to his mother in Chicago. When Mamie Till got the body, she made a stunning announcement: There would be a public, open-casket funeral for her son. People protested and reminded her how much this would upset everyone. Mamie agreed, but countered, "I want the whole world to see what they did to my boy."

The photo of Emmett's body in that open casket was published in Jet magazine. By all accounts, those photos helped launch the Civil Rights Movement in America. Three months later in Montgomery, when Rosa Parks famously refused to go to the back of the bus, she said the bloody image of Emmett Till gave her the courage to stand her ground. In short, the picture did what no words ever could; it moved a nation to action.

It's time for Christians to open the casket on abortion. The biblical mandates for doing so are Ephesians 5:11 and Proverbs 24:11-12. "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them" and "Hold back those being led to slaughter."

When evil is hidden, it flourishes. The world will tolerate abortion as long as it never has to see it.



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 30

1. PRAY THAT THIS EVIL IS EXPOSED.

History teachers don't show images of the Holocaust or the Vietnam War to traumatize students. They show them because the pictures are true. The images that reveal the truth of abortion are disturbing. They should never be used to beat people up emotionally. But they can convey truths where words fail.

2. PRAY FOR CLARITY AND CONSISTENCY.

Every day, pro-life apologists are making the positive case for life, while seeking to reveal what abortion really is. Pray for them, as they seek to persuade university and high school students, parents, and leaders who may not know what is at stake. Pray that they will unflinchingly speak and show the truth in love.

3. PRAY THAT THOSE WHO NEED GOD'S FORGIVENESS WILL FIND IT.

Some who learn the truth of abortion will also be faced with their own decisions to end the life of an unborn child. Pray that those who do will also experience the forgiveness that is only found through death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

PRAYING FOR YOUR PASTOR

— DAY 20 —

We need pastors who will lead their churches to defend the unborn and care for the victims of abortion. What would such a pastor look like?

- 1) The pro-life pastor preaches a biblical view of human value. Scripture never expressly says that elective abortion is wrong, but it affirms that all humans have value because they are God's image bearers. (Gen. 1:26, 9:6, Ex. 23:7, Prov. 6:16-17, James 3: 9.) Hence, the clear biblical commands against the unjust taking of human life apply to the unborn just as they do other human beings.
- 2) The pro-life pastor equips his people to communicate the pro-life view. The pro-life case is clear: It is wrong to intentionally kill innocent human beings. Abortion intentionally kills innocent human beings. Therefore, abortion is wrong. Every single church member should know how to defend that case using science and philosophy. Pro-life apologetics should be taught in Sunday School classes, small groups, and sermons whenever appropriate. And, high school students should know how to make a case for the pro-life view before they head off to college where they'll face rival views of human value.
- 3) The pro-life pastor restores broken lives through cross-centered preaching. Millions of Christians feel disqualified by past sexual sins, which may include abortion. Ignoring sin does not spare people guilt; it spares them healing. Guilt-ridden men and women need to be pointed to Jesus who bore God's judgment in their place and now adopts them into His family as dearly loved children.
- 4) The pro-life pastor challenges church members to live out a biblical worldview in the public square. Politics isn't a sufficient answer to injustice, but it's certainly a necessary one. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The law can't make the white man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me." If Christians don't think the government-sanctioned killing of unborn children merits a political response, then they not only misunderstand the moral gravity of the situation, but also their mandate to love their neighbor as themselves.

Pastors can't (and shouldn't) use church resources to endorse political candidates or parties, but they can (and must) teach that a biblical worldview informs our political behavior—including who we choose to empower with our vote. Saying so is not wrong. It's leadership.



WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 31

1. PRAY FOR DIPLOMACY.

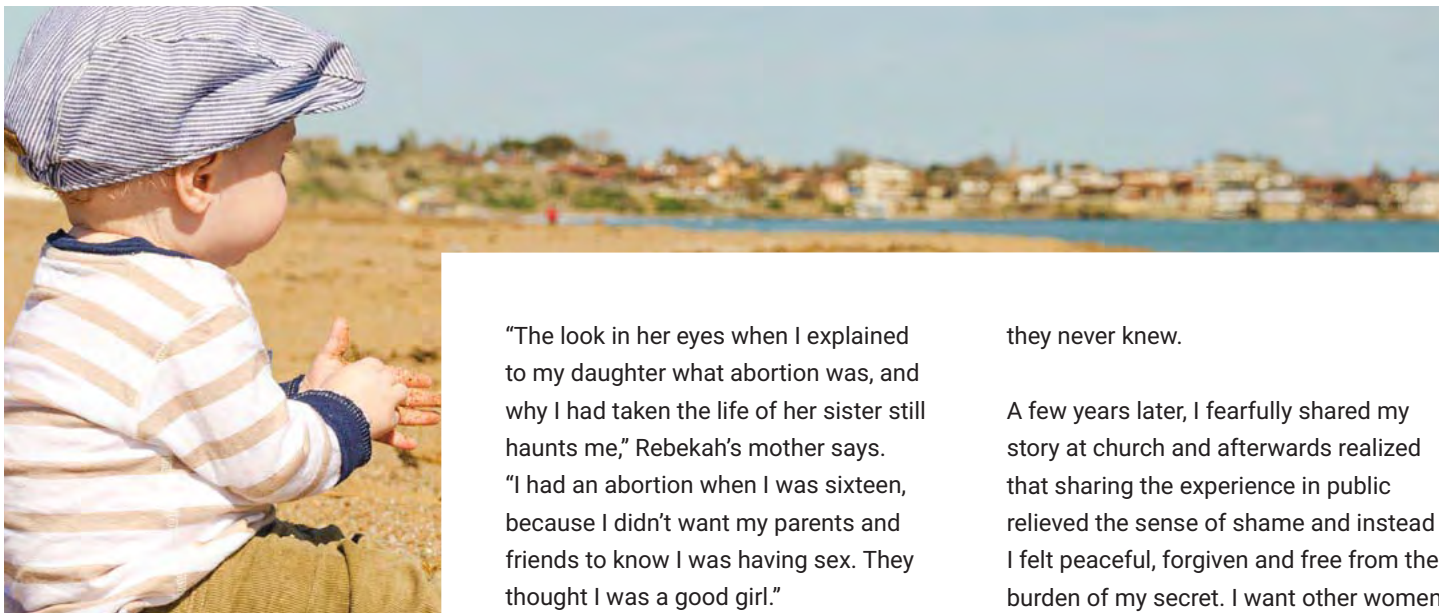
Pastors need to embrace their abortion-related responsibilities, but sometimes pro-lifers approach their pastors with a demanding and grace-less attitude. Pray that Christians would serve the pastors and, when necessary, challenge them in a gracious manner to be involved.

2. PRAY FOR PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE.

Church leaders must trust God to protect His ministry through them when they preach controversial truths. Pray that your pastor recognizes God's sovereignty in sustaining His people even as they are challenged on this issue.

3. PRAY FOR MORE POST-ABORTION MINISTRIES AT CHURCHES.

Few churches have a post-abortion ministry for church members, and yet we know churches are full of men and women who made that terrible choice. Prayerfully consider a gospel-centered post-abortion outreach within your church.



SIBLINGS, GRANDPARENTS, AND OTHER FORGOTTEN VICTIMS

DAY 21

When Rebekah was 8, she found out she had a sister. “I was snooping around my mom’s Bible, and found four pieces of paper stuffed between the pages. The first sentence read, ‘I was sixteen years old when I became pregnant with Elizabeth and I had no idea what to do.’

“The look in her eyes when I explained to my daughter what abortion was, and why I had taken the life of her sister still haunts me,” Rebekah’s mother says. “I had an abortion when I was sixteen, because I didn’t want my parents and friends to know I was having sex. They thought I was a good girl.”

We often forget that abortion not only takes the life of a child, it robs others of being grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters. Today, decades after *Roe v. Wade*, the sheer number of these victims of abortion is staggering. These victims need to be acknowledged also. As Rebekah’s mom wrote:

It was in 1995, that I finally acknowledged that I didn’t just have an abortion, but I aborted a child, my child. For 19 years I had denied what my abortion had done – it had ended the life of my baby. I finally began to grieve for what was lost. I realized as long as it was a secret, it had control over me. Telling my parents was one of the hardest things I had to do. They cried as they realized they had a grandchild who

they never knew.

A few years later, I fearfully shared my story at church and afterwards realized that sharing the experience in public relieved the sense of shame and instead I felt peaceful, forgiven and free from the burden of my secret. I want other women to know about the help that is available and that they too can be silent no more.

And Rebekah found peace as well.

After holding in my feelings for so long, I had to let them out. I had a few close friends that helped me through all this, and I also did a lot of writing. And after praying about it, I came to the last step in giving up my issues with my sister: I handed them over to Christ. Having a relationship with Christ is the best way to let go of pain.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR TODAY:

PAGE 32

1. PRAY FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH STOLEN RELATIONSHIPS.

These victims of abortion are often forgotten, and deal everyday with a sense of loss and anger. Pray that they are able to forgive.

2. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO HIDE THE CHOICE THEY MADE TO ABORT.

Like Rebekah’s mom, there are many women who have chosen to bury the secret that they had an abortion. Healing is impossible until they find forgiveness in Christ, and reconciliation in their relationships.

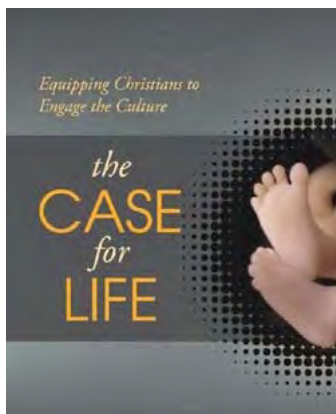
3. PRAY THAT WOMEN CONTINUE TO TELL THEIR STORY.

Silent No More is one example of a campaign aimed at helping women come to grips with their choice to abort. Pray that many women find the courage to join this campaign, and others like it.

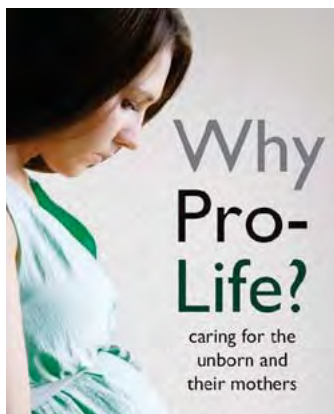
WHAT TO DO NEXT: JOIN THE MOVEMENT



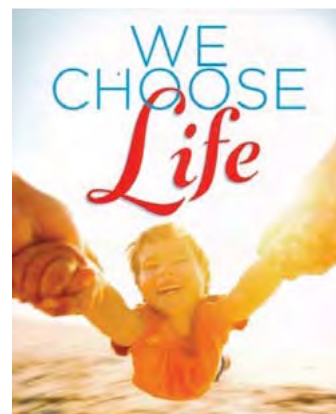
GO DEEPER! BOOKS TO READ:



The Case for Life by Scott Klusendorf



Why Pro-Life: Caring for the Unborn and their Mothers by Randy Alcorn



We Choose Life: Authentic Stories, Movements of Hope by Dave Sterrett

GET INVOLVED! VIDEOS TO WATCH, DISCUSS, AND PASS ON TO OTHERS:



"The Dignity of Human Life" by Focus on the Family



"A Father's Sacrifice" by Focus on the Family



"We Got It Covered" Commercial



Nick Cannon: "Can I Live?"



"Life is Best" Television Series



"TED: Conception to Birth - visualized" by Alexander Tsiasas



"Center for Medical Progress: Investigative Videos"



Former Planned Parenthood Employee Abby Johnson



"An Adoption Story"



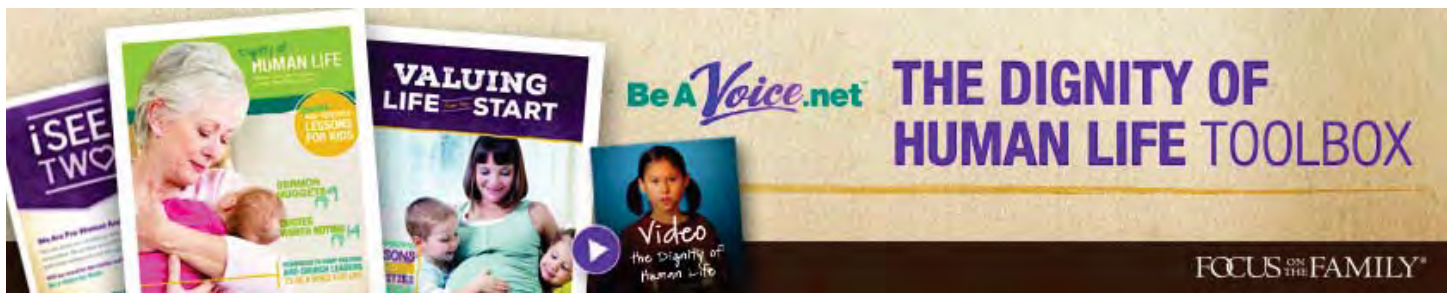
Online for Life Featured Short Films



"Crescendo" – A powerful pro-life film

All links on this page and the next are live. Just roll your cursor over the graphic and click.

ONLINE TOOLS TO USE AND SHARE



"The Dignity of Human Life Toolbox"

Includes: Dignity of Human Life magazine and video, plus #iSEETWO bulletin inserts and signs.

Find a Pregnancy Center

"Find a Center" by CareNet

A searchable online tool to locate local pregnancy resource centers.

BREAKPOINT

Breakpoint.org

The daily radio program, podcast, and email of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview has up to date pro-life news and commentary.