

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Sanctity of Life – Sermon

Before you get started with this week’s questions, please spend time in prayer. If don’t get through the questions because you spent the majority of your time in prayer... that is a success!!!

- Pray for all the women within our church that have had an abortion or have participated in an abortion at some level. Pray that these women have true saving faith and that they find rest in God’s grace and forgiveness.
 - **Psalms 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.**
- Pray for the women in our community that are facing unplanned pregnancy. Pray also for the men that are the fathers to the unplanned child.
- Pray for our church body, that we would be a light in a dark culture and that we would speak truth boldly and lovingly. Pray that our priority would be the gospel and not politics.
- Pray for the leaders of our nation to see abortion for what it truly is and to make laws that protect the unborn.

The 3 points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **A Worldview Where Abortion Makes Absolutely No Sense.**
- **A Worldview Where Abortion Make Sense.**
- **The Heart of the Argument For & Against Abortion.**

I. A Worldview Where Abortion Makes Absolutely No Sense.

- Why do you think that God made Man last out of all of his creation?

- **Read Gen. 1:26-27** and compare it to how God made everything else in creation (Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)
 - **One Theologian said**, “it should be noted that a divine counsel or deliberation preceded the creation of man: “Let us make man...” this again brings out the uniqueness of man’s creation. In connection with no other creature is such a divine counsel mentioned.”
- What does it mean to be made in the image of God? **Read Gen. 9:6** to help answer this question.
- Discuss the following Quote.
 - The reason that murder is said to be such a horrendous crime so horrendous that it must be punished by death is that the man who has been murdered is someone who imaged God, reflected God, was like God, and represented God. Therefore, when one kills a human being, not only does he take that person’s life, but he hurts God himself the God who was reflected in that individual. To touch the image of God is to touch God himself; to kill the image of God is to do violence against God himself.
- Read the following verses and discuss what they tell us about God’s perspective on the unborn.
 - Jeremiah 1:5
 - Psalms 22:10
 - Psalms 139:13
 - Psalms 51:5
 - Judges 13:7
 - Isaiah 49:1
 - Exodus 21:22-23
- Hebrews 2:17 says that Jesus was a human like us in every respect. Read Luke 1:30 and Matthew 1:20 and explain what these two verses signify when it comes to the understanding of when life begins.
- Read and discuss the following quote.
 - In the world of the Bible, every single human being and all life is sacred because of God. Every single human life is sacred because every single human being is made in the image of God. You see, in the Biblical world we come to understand that every one of us has dignity, not because in ourselves we deserve dignity... but because we are made by a sovereign, all-powerful, and holy God who made us in His image. – **Albert Mohler**

- **The definition of murder is** “the Intentional killing of an Innocent human.” By this definition, why should abortion be considered murder? Why isn’t capital punishment murder?
- Read and discuss the following quotes.
 - Whether we **CALL** abortion murder depends upon whether we **CALL** the unborn baby a person. But whether abortion **IS** murder depends upon whether the unborn **IS** a person. – **Pastor Andy Walker**
 - The fetus is either alive or not alive. The fetus is either human or not human. The fetus is either a person or not a person. What I think the fetus is, does not determine what the fetus actually is. If a fetus is a living person but I do not believe or think that it is a living person, my thoughts have no bearing on what the fetus actually is. – **R.C. Sproul**

II. A Worldview Where Abortion Make Sense.

- If man doesn’t get his value and dignity from imaging God, were does he get his value and dignity? Discuss how our secular society tries to answer this question.
- If man doesn’t get his worth from an outside authority (God) then who gets to define man’s value, dignity and personhood? Why is the answer to this question scary when we look at the history of mankind?
- Discuss the following two paragraphs -

In the 20th century we can look at a long parade of horrible terrors, and one of the easiest to identify is the medical ethics of Germany before and during the Third Reich. There, the Germans actually had a medical philosophy called – “life unworthy of life,” that formed the foundation for their murderous atrocities. The Germans actually came up with a graduation of life. And the life that was worthy of life was Aryan life. It was the life of those who were considered to be physically and genetically superior, who could contribute to the welfare and the defense and the policies of the Third Reich. And the life unworthy of life where the: Gypsies, homosexuals, the mentally retarded, the physically disabled and the Jews.

We look back at the Third Reich and the German medical ethics that produced it and we ask how could it be that agents of medicine and doctors ... turn into the agents of death rather than the agents of life? It is because they bought into a worldview in which there is a progression from life that is worthy of life to life that is unworthy of life. Well, if you can do that in terms of Jews and in terms of gypsies and in terms of others, then you can certainly do it in terms of the various stages of human development. – **Albert Molher**

III. The Heart of the Argument For & Against Abortion.

- How is the argument for and against abortion a conflict of worldviews? A biblical worldview verses a secular worldview. Why is it important that we understand this?
 - **A Biblical Worldview**
 - God determines worth
 - God determines when life starts
 - Abortion is murder
 - **A Secular Worldview**
 - There is no God
 - Therefore, Man defines man's worth.
 - Abortion is morally justifiable
- What role does the gospel play in the fight against abortion?

Abortion is an issue that must sear the national conscience. Abortion is an issue that is so real and relevant right now – right now – there are babies being terminated in wombs. Abortion is such a crucial issue for us, however, because as Christians we know that it is a Gospel issue. And we know that right now it is not just a baby that is being terminated, it is not just a pregnancy that is being ended – it is a life that is known by God before God made it in the womb. It is a life that is being destroyed.

And brothers and sisters, as much as that must motivate us to action, as much as that must simply sear our conscience into a state whereby we cannot be satisfied until this plague on our country is brought to an end – as much as that is all those things - it is also that which drives us back to the Cross, to the Gospel, and back to the realization that the only one who can bring life out of death is the one who is the author of life from the first.

– **Albert Mohler**

- Discuss ways your group could get involved in the effort of stopping abortion? What is the church's role in loving those that are facing un-planned pregnancies?

Leaders: Attached to this week's questions are 6 common pro-choice arguments and 6 pro-life responses. Feel free to print them out for your group and/or point your people to the church website if they are interested in using them as a resource. These are here just to be a resource, please don't feel like you have to read them during your study.

Pro-abortion argument 1: You can't legislate morality!

- **Pro-life Response:** Yes, but there must be laws to regulate deeds! Does this mean we do away with all laws that have moral foundations? Do we now make murder legal? We are not trying to make people develop a moral character by making and enforcing laws (that's the role of religion & discipleship), we are trying to prevent people from doing things that endanger others' lives regardless of how they feel about it! Anti-abortion laws may not be able to change people's hearts about the rightness or wrongness of abortion, but they can keep people from murdering the unborn.
 - **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s** - "We hear the familiar cry that morals can't be legislated. This may be true, but behavior can be regulated. The law may not be able to make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me."

Pro-abortion argument 2: Shouldn't we be Tolerant?!? It's the woman's body and we shouldn't force her to have a child!

- **Response:** Don't pro-abortion laws allow some people to force death on the unborn? You don't believe in restricting a woman's choice, but you have no problem restricting the life of the unborn! Isn't the most severe restriction of all to be killed? Isn't the most intolerant action of all murder? If you are really against force, why do you want to force death upon unwilling millions?

Pro-abortion argument 3: I am personally against abortion, but I don't want to impose my personal views on others.

- **Response:** Why are you against abortion? If you believe the unborn is a person, why would you not protect innocent human life by passing a law against abortion. Suppose the KKK wanted to begin lynching again? Would you be imposing your values on them by making and enforcing laws against lynching? Suppose a Neo-Nazi party arose and wanted to begin exterminating Jews again. Would you be imposing your values on them by restricting their activities?

Pro-abortion argument 4: A woman should have reproductive freedom.

- **Response:** she does!!!
 - Abstinence
 - Non-abortive – Contraceptives
 - Motherhood
 - Adoption

Pro-abortion argument 5: But the unborn fetus is so different than an infant or an adult human! It is different in Size, Development, Dependence and Mobility. You are telling me that an unborn baby should have the same rights as a newborn baby.

- **Does Size & Development Matter?**
 - **Response:** What about the pre-adolescent child whose reproductive system is not fully developed? Is it less terrible to kill a smaller, less developed child than to kill a larger, more fully developed one? All of human life is a process of development.
- **The unborn is dependent & immobile.**
 - **Response:** Is it less evil to kill a dependent immobile victim (someone paralyzed, someone on a ventilator) than an independent or mobile one?

Pro-abortion argument 6: What about viability? Does Viability matter?

7 - responses

1. The issue of dependence/independence is not morally relevant.
2. The unborn is not dependent upon the mother for it's identity.
3. The unborn baby's dependence on the mother for nourishment lasts long after the baby is born.
4. The sick and the elderly are dependent too; are they not persons?
5. All of us are always dependent in some way: on each other, on nature, etc.
6. We are all nonviable in relation to certain environments. If anyone of us were placed on the moon for just a few minutes, one would quickly become aware of our non-viability, but this doesn't make them become non-human. If you are placed under water without SCUBA gear, you are now quickly going to become nonviable, but you're still human!
7. Viability depends upon time and place... personhood does not!
 - a. Viability changes as our technology advances. When Roe-v-Wade was passed viability was between 24-28 weeks. Now some babies have survived at 21 weeks after conception.
 - b. What are we to say concerning the situation where some health-care facilities are allowing a viable baby to be killed by an abortionist in one room, while in another room, a doctor is trying heroically to save other viable baby born prematurely...If the 24 week old preemie is fully human, then so is the 28 week old unborn who can be legally killed by an abortionist.
 - c. These are time & place considerations, not personhood considerations!