

Value Every Life

A note to the leader

Obviously, your group is made up of perfectly calm, reasonable people who have never once raised their voice about a public issue. For everyone else's groups, here's a reminder: this series covers contentious social issues, so engage with love, humility, and respect.

Connect

What's something you were absolutely convinced of as a kid but later learned wasn't true as an adult?

Review

Take a couple of minutes to review some of the main ideas from the sermon:

1. **The Humanity of the Child.** The child in the womb is a human person, created and known by God before birth. Because every human life is God's workmanship, the unborn child's value does not depend on whether she is wanted, independent, or able to contribute.
2. **The Needs of the Mother.** An unexpected pregnancy can place a woman in an incredibly difficult and fearful situation, and God sees and cares for her in that place. We must value both the child and the mother, responding to difficult circumstances with compassion and practical support rather than choosing one over the other.
3. **The Responsibility of the Church.** The church is called to carry the cost of supporting both women and children, working personally, culturally, structurally, and legally to create a society where every life is valued.
4. **The Sacrifice of the Savior.** Jesus shows us what it looks like to value the vulnerable through sacrificial love. Because Christ gave his body so that we could live, his followers are called to sacrifice for the sake of mothers, children, and others who are most vulnerable.

Read Psalm 139:1-18

Make Observations: After reading Psalm 139:1-18 out loud, give your group a few minutes to make observations on their own. Then go around the group and share the things you observed and discuss them.

Discuss

1. The sermon named two things that make this topic hard: it's political, and it's personal. What other reasons make this a difficult issue to talk about with others? What might make it difficult to talk about in this group?
2. The sermon pointed out that we change our language from "baby" to "fetus" when we decide we don't want the child. Why do you think our language shifts the way it does? What deeper truth does this reveal about the human heart?
3. A coworker says, "I'd never get one myself, but who am I to tell someone else what to do?" How could you respond in a way that's honest, kind, and keeps the conversation going?
4. Pastor Clayton described four layers of response: personal, cultural, structural, and legal. Which of these do you think Christians most often undervalue, and why? Which one do you see the most opportunity to engage in, whether personally or as a group?
5. Imagine our group had $5,000 and ten hours a month to support mothers facing hard pregnancies or early parenting. How would you use it? What would you prioritize, and why?
6. Abortion says, "Your life for mine." But our God says, "My life for yours." How does Jesus's sacrifice shape the way we should treat people who are making, or have made, painful decisions about pregnancy?

Apply

Break up into smaller groups of three, and respond to this question: As the Church, we all have a responsibility to address the issue of abortion. What is one step you could take to get more involved and care for those who are impacted by the issue of abortion?

Pray

As a group, take a minute to lament the brokenness of abortion. You can do this by praying Psalm 12 aloud, or by praying a personal prayer of lament. After praying, take a minute in silence before transitioning. Then, have someone close by praying over the issue of abortion and the issues that are often connected to it.