

Project

LIFE

Adult Education Series

LEADER'S

Guide

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PROJECT LIFE LEADER'S *Guide*

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Thank You

from Deacon Georgette Forney
President, Anglicans for Life



Dear PROJECT LIFE Leaders,

Thank you for your willingness to serve as the leader of the Anglicans for Life PROJECT LIFE Series. The overall goal of this eight week series is to provide a comprehensive snapshot of the top Life Issues and to inspire participants to make a difference for Life.

While this series does use DVD segments, your role is critical. You will do more than show video clips. You will facilitate an interactive learning experience designed to inspire the class participants to respond to Life Issues with stronger clarity, compassion, and commitment.

Before you dive into the contents of this series, I want to share a few things I've learned during my years serving in this Life-affirming ministry.

Life issues, especially abortion, can often bring out powerful opinions and beliefs in individuals. Even people of faith hold different views about how to honor the sanctity of life. Abortion discussions can emphasize various tactics including moral arguments, legal rights, political/legislative activity, personhood of the baby, biblical truths, medical facts, woman's rights, and so on.

Rather than focusing on one tactic to advocate for Life, PROJECT LIFE employs a variety of approaches. We don't believe there is one "magic solution" for ending abortion or protecting life. PROJECT LIFE encourages people to examine the various methods presented here, as well as others that come up in class, and to thoughtfully and prayerfully discern which tactic fits their style, personality, talents, and character.

Also Life Issues, especially abortion, often bring out intense emotions, due to personal experience with the topic. These emotions should not be confused with strongly held opinions or beliefs, and we need to be wise and compassionate in our response. Thus, resources to help individuals are included in these materials, *and* the Anglicans For Life staff is also available for you or a participant to contact directly for further support or information.

Therefore, given the previous comments, we have designed this series recognizing that participants would typically be church members with a wide variety of backgrounds and beliefs that they will bring to the class. Thus, they need to be introduced to the Scriptural foundation for Christians to support Life.

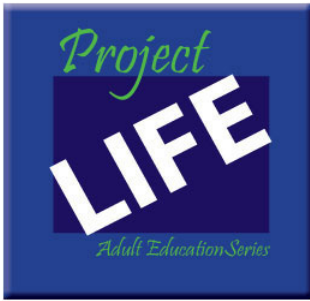
Scripture is our ultimate teacher and source of authority for all we present in the PROJECT LIFE Series. We have added research data and testimony to reinforce the fact that biblical truths remain foundational and relevant in our culture today.

In closing, please know we will be praying for you and are here to support you. May your heart for Life Issues be strengthened, and may you will feel more equipped to witness to the sacredness of every human Life created in God's image.

Thank you for serving in this important endeavor.

For His glory,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Georgette".



INTRODUCTION

During this course, participants will learn...

- A biblical foundation for a commitment to Life.
- What abortion is and how it affects various people, especially women who feel forced into abortions.
- How to respond to unexpected pregnancies with compassion and support.
- What we need to say about sex and how we can support young people dealing with sexual issues.
- How euthanasia and assisted suicide further erode the value of human Life.
- The challenges presented by biotechnology.
- Ways that we can compassionately affirm Life in our churches and in our culture.

Specific Goals

1. Participants will understand the biblical basis for affirming Life from conception to natural death.
2. Participants will be able to identify how our society often teaches a message contradictory to the value of Life.
3. Participants will recognize how the Sanctity of Life is threatened daily, in big and small ways, in our culture.
4. Participants will be able to define abortion and describe how it affects the unborn child, the women involved, and others.
5. Participants will be able to discuss helpful approaches to dealing with an unexpected pregnancy, including how adoption works today.
6. Participants will be able to share the biblical perspective on sex.
7. Participants will be able to define euthanasia and assisted suicide as practices that devalue certain human lives.
8. Participants will be able to identify challenges posed by embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, and reproductive technology.
9. Participants will be able to share examples of ways that Christians, historically and currently, work to affirm the sanctity of life.

Your Role as **PROJECT LIFE** Leader

PROJECT LIFE's goals include commitment and action, therefore your role as Leader is especially important. Your responsibilities will include coordinating the following:

- Prayer Support
- Communications
- Logistics
- Facilitation of the **PROJECT LIFE** weeks

Keep in mind that you should not try to do each task personally, but spread the duties around... *Delegate!* With help, you and others can see to these details and contribute to the maximum effectiveness of **PROJECT LIFE**.

Furthermore, we at Anglicans for Life are happy to answer questions. Call us at 1-412-749-0455 or send us an email at Info@anglicansforlife.org.

YOUR ROLE COORDINATING PRAYER SUPPORT

You will want to pray daily during the 8 weeks for this series and the participants. Additionally, we suggest you recruit a prayer team of 3-6 discreet, reliable people who will pray for the preparation time leading up to the series, each **PROJECT LIFE** session, the participants, and for the follow-up from the class. Also, ask them to pray for healing for anyone who may have been affected by the issues raised in the series.

YOUR ROLE COORDINATING COMMUNICATIONS

Your work in communications will involve two areas.

1. Publicity

The first is publicity. For people to remember something, they must have read or heard about it at least seven times. This means that when you are promoting this course in your church, you'll want to do more than produce a couple bulletin announcements.

Here are some additional resources Anglicans For Life has available for you:

- Clergy announcements
- Poster in a prominent area
- Emails to your church members
- Postcards to your church members
- Letters from your clergy or lay leaders to the parish
- Bulletin inserts
- Articles or blurbs in your church newsletter
- Announcements during church services with **PROJECT LIFE** DVD clip
- Blurb with **PROJECT LIFE** logo on your church's website

2. Coordination

The second area of communications, coordination, is less public, but no less important. You will need to communicate with your clergy and lay leaders to encourage them to share the vision for **PROJECT LIFE** with parishioners. You also should give your clergy regular status updates as the series progresses.

In particular, as **PROJECT LIFE** touches on several sensitive issues that have probably affected people in the class, you'll want to talk with your clergy about the potential pastoral issues that could arise and coordinate a resource list. (See the suggested resource list at the back of this guide.) Some women who have undergone abortions (and others affected by abortion) can become very upset and need understanding and support. The Participant Guide encourages people who find themselves getting upset to excuse themselves from the week and meet with the Leader later for a one-on-one catch-up.

Please encourage your clergy to participate in the class to highlight the importance of the Life issues addressed in **PROJECT LIFE**, and to be available to people who may have pastoral needs. Or enlist the services of a qualified counselor.

At Anglicans for Life, we have a particular concern for those who have had an abortion or have been involved in helping someone procure one and we have experience in dealing with women who become unnerved and upset when dealing with the reality of what their abortions mean. If you want further consultation, especially when working with a woman who is dealing with her abortion, please contact Georgette Forney directly at 1-412-749-0455.

YOUR ROLE COORDINATING LOGISTICS

You will need to attend to many logistical details to make **PROJECT LIFE** run effectively. Carefully attending to the details ahead of time will make a big difference. We've tried to anticipate the major details you will need to address, but your church is unique, and you will know if there are additional needs.

Set The Dates For The **PROJECT LIFE** Series

You'll want to do this in careful coordination with your church's leadership and your church's calendar. In some cases, you may need several months lead time to schedule the class. You should also set the sign up dates which ideally should be on 2 to 3 Sundays about a month ahead of the start of class.

Reserve Your Room

You will want to reserve a room that has

- Enough space to accommodate your class with tables and chairs
- Power and equipment for DVD projection.
- The ability to accommodate drinks and possibly snacks

Materials and Room Set Up

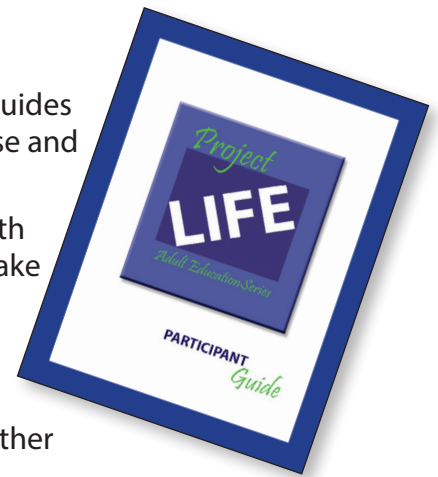
Participants Guide

Please order one **PROJECT LIFE** Participant Guide for each attendee. These Guides are very important, as they will help guide the participants through the course and provide follow up assignments.

In addition, we've designed the Participant Guide to be used like a journal with plenty of spaces for participants to write and reflect. We encourage you to make good use of your own **PROJECT LIFE** Participant Guide.

At sign up, we suggest that you charge at least a nominal amount for the guides to help defray the cost.

Finally, we recommend that you distribute the Participant Guide at Week 1 rather than giving them out ahead of time.



DVD

You will need a DVD player and TV big enough for your group to see and hear. A family size television will do well if you have 12 or fewer. Consider using a larger TV screen or projector if your group is 12-24. If your group is 25 or more, you may want a projection size TV. If you are not "technical," we encourage you to work with your church's AV people or recruit a techie if possible.

Class Supplies

We recommend an easel with easel paper, masking tape for posting on the wall, markers for easel, and sticky notes. Extra Bibles, pens, and paper are good to also have on hand.

If possible, please set up your learning space with tables and chairs. Rather than rows of chairs, have tables with 4-6 chairs around each. This will help facilitate interaction. If you have a choice between round tables and rectangle tables, choose round.

Suggestions for Refreshments

Set up for coffee, decaf coffee, and tea. You may also want to offer water. (If it is warm, consider offering ice tea and lemonade.) Don't forget creamer, sugar, and artificial sweetener, and stirrers. Refreshments and snacks may not seem necessary, but people tend to bond around food, and you will want your group to develop a strong working relationship.

YOUR ROLE FACILITATING THE PROJECT LIFE SESSIONS

This is your most critical responsibility. While you will not be directly teaching the materials, you will be helping the **PROJECT LIFE** participants think more deeply about Life issues and strategize how they will make a difference for Life.

We strongly encourage you to review the DVD segments and the Participant Guide at least once before the start of the series.

As you watch the videos and read the Participant Guide, be in prayer for the **PROJECT LIFE** series, asking the Lord to provide His wisdom as you facilitate the series.

Before Each PROJECT LIFE Session

During the week before the session, watch the **PROJECT LIFE** DVD segment and review the session, make copies of the Resource List on page 117 of this book. The Resource List should be made available each week to the class.

On The Day Of Class

On the day of class, arrive at least 30 minutes early to oversee setup and to pray. Be sure to have the **PROJECT LIFE** DVD cued to the right segment.

Place the Resource List copies on a table for participants to take.

Set up the easel paper with the day's topic written on it and post the previous weeks' easel pages.

During Each PROJECT LIFE Session

Because **PROJECT LIFE** emphasizes more than just gaining facts, the participants will engage in a variety of activities each week using their Participant Guide. We have provided the coinciding page numbers for the Participant Guide in the upper corner of odd numbered pages as a reference point for you.

First, you will lead your group in an *Opening Prayer and Opening Activity* time. You can use the prayer provided in the Participant Guide or use one of your own. Then you will lead the group in the activity or short discussion that will help prepare their minds and hearts for the topic of the day.

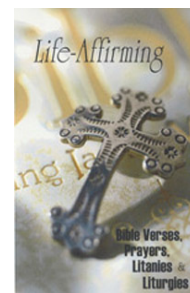
Next, you will introduce the topic of the week and show the *DVD Presentation* with Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans for Life. During her presentation, Georgette will provide an overview of the topic of the day. There will be spaces in the **PROJECT LIFE** Participant Guide for taking notes.

After the DVD Presentation, the participants will engage in a *Group Reflection*. During this time, if you have a class smaller than 12, the whole group could work on the discussion questions listed in the student books. Otherwise, they should work with the small group at their table. Ideally, the groups should be 4-6 people. Definitely, they should be no larger than 12. Ask each group to designate a discussion leader for the session. From week to week, encourage the class to vary groups and discussion leaders.

At the first week, you should review the Guidelines for Group Discussion with the group before they start their Group Reflections.

During discussion time, you should not plan on moderating or participating in a group, but you should move around the room, checking to see that participation is going well and if anyone appears to be having emotional difficulty with the subject.

If someone is becoming unduly upset or is exhibiting aggressive behavior towards others, you should gently, but firmly, encourage that person to take a break from the session. Let that person know that you will be happy to meet one-on-one to catch up on the week. Let your clergy know that you have done this. (Ideally, your clergy will be there.) Please be discreet and don't mention the incident to anyone else. (You can let your Prayer Team know that they need to pray, but don't provide names or details.)



You can find the Bible verses and prayers which we share in **PROJECT LIFE** in our booklet, "Life-Affirming Bible Verses, Prayers, Litanies & Liturgies." Print the PDF or order it online: AnglicansforLife.org

Guidelines For Group Discussion

These guidelines also appear on page PG-7 of the PROJECT LIFE Handbook

1. Share respectfully. Please tell what you think, but be sensitive to others.
2. Listen respectfully. Let people share. Make sure everyone has a chance to share.
3. Remember, if you really do not want to share, you are not obligated to do so.
4. This course covers some issues that have probably affected you or another person in your class. As such, these topics may become lightning rod type issues, generating strong emotion. Please be understanding if others become upset and be conscious of your own reactions.

If you find yourself becoming upset, you may want to take a break from the session, and spend some time alone in prayer and contemplation. The Leader will be happy to meet with you one-on-one later to catch you up on what you have missed. If you desire further support, talk to your coordinator or visit the **PROJECT LIFE** section at www.AnglicansforLife.org for resources that can help you. (Resource lists will also be available on a table in the room if you want to take one.)

After Group Reflection you will gather the whole group for *Closing Thoughts and Prayer*. Have ready an easel paper with the day's topic listed on it. Each person may write down on a sticky note an impression or insight gained from the session and place it on an easel sheet dedicated to the topic of the day. *If you can, please keep these posted in the room throughout the eight weeks, or post them in the room each week during set up.*

Then, if a few people want to share briefly, they may do so. Make sure people keep their sharing brief.

Next, your group will pray about what was learned in the session and close with the *Prayer for Life* printed at the end of each week in the **PROJECT LIFE** Participant Guide.

Please remind people about the Personal Study and Reflection at the end of each week in the Participant Guide. We encourage you and the participants to work through these exercises. This will usually involve reviewing notes, checking one or more websites for more information, reflecting on a Bible passage, and answering one or two questions related to what you learned in the weeks. *(Note: While most people have access to the Internet, some do not. You may want to let people know that if they do not have access to the web, they can just focus on the reflection questions, and the Bible reading.)* Working through the Personal Study and Reflection will help them engage with the topics at a more personal level—which will make the program more effective in reaching the goals of increasing clarity, compassion, and commitment.

Prayer for Life

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in Your image.
Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us, through Scripture, the value You place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

NOTE:

*You may find that you do not have enough time during the **PROJECT LIFE** session to complete every activity. If you run low on time, consider skipping a **Group Reflection** question or shortening the sharing time during **Closing Thoughts and Prayer**. Ask the Lord for wisdom and remember that what the participants gain from the session is more important than completing all the activities.*

After Each PROJECT LIFE Session

Oversee clean up and be sure to retrieve the **PROJECT LIFE** DVD.

Be available to anyone who wants to talk.

Retrieve the easel paper with the comments and keep for the following weeks. (After the series, you may want someone to type it up for you.)

During the week afterward, be sure to work through the Personal Study and Reflection. In addition, watch the next DVD segment and read the next week in the **PROJECT LIFE** Participant Guide.

As the Leader of the **PROJECT LIFE** series, you do have a great responsibility and a number of details to consider. Please remember that your prayer team and Anglicans for Life are praying for you. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, if you have questions or need some support, contact Anglicans for Life at 1-412-749-0455 or email the Project Life Team at: Info@anglicansforlife.org.

Contact info:



Anglicans for Life

412-749-0455

FAX: 412-749-9122

or email

Info@AnglicansforLife.org



PROJECT LIFE Leader's Checklist



Use this checklist to help you keep track of all these details.
There are also blanks for you to add other details as needed.

Three Months Ahead:

- Preview the **PROJECT LIFE** DVD and review the Participant Handbook.
- Speak with your clergy and/or lay leaders about **PROJECT LIFE** and share the vision for **PROJECT LIFE**. You may want to show them a couple DVD segments and have look over the Handbook. If your clergy can participate in the series, that would be all the better!
- Talk with your clergy about potential pastoral needs that may arise. Share with them the suggested resources in the back of this book. Coordinate with appropriate local resources where people can receive help, such as local Christian counseling agencies.
- Schedule the dates for the **PROJECT LIFE** series and the sign up day. Email Anglicans for Life at Info@anglicansforlife.org the dates so that we can pray for you.
- Assemble your **PROJECT LIFE** Prayer Team.
- First publicity - Bulletin Insert and/or Poster.*
- Reserve your room.
- _____
- _____

Two Months Ahead:

- Generate at least four more publicity efforts including but not limited to
 - Asking clergy to make an announcement and/or pen a letter.
 - Placing posters in prominent spots at your church (*Inside bathroom stalls is also very effective!*)
- Submit an article or blurb for church newsletter and Website
- Provide a general church e-mail announcement
- Ask your **PROJECT LIFE** prayer team to pray for God to draw the people He wants to this class
- Make sure you have DVD equipment lined up. If you are not "technical," you should coordinate with your church's AV people or recruit an AV techie to help you.
- Coordinate your list of resources with your clergy and have them typed up.
- Set and announce sign up dates.
- _____
- _____

Six Weeks Ahead:

- Decide what you will charge for **PROJECT LIFE** Handbooks.
- Start sign ups. Have a sign up table after services.
- Collect money for the **PROJECT LIFE** Handbook at sign up.
- _____
- _____

One Month Ahead:

- Review the **PROJECT LIFE** DVD and Handbook again.
- Estimate number of participants and order enough Handbooks from Anglicans for Life.
- Ask your Prayer Team to continue prayers for God to draw the right people and for His protection for you and the class.
- Make a special announcement in church using a DVD clip and/or clergy appeal.
- Arrange for a **PROJECT LIFE** Bulletin Insert.
- Finalize your list of resources (p.117). Make copies to be available to the participants.
- Plan for set up. Work with your church's set-up staff or recruit people to set up the room with table and chairs.
- Recruit others to help with take-down and clean-up.
- _____

Three weeks ahead:

- Finish sign-ups.
- Tell your **PROJECT LIFE** Prayer Team how many participants and ask for prayer for them.
- Order more Handbooks, if needed.
- _____

Two weeks ahead:

- Get easel paper and supplies lined up.
- Buy coffee, decaf coffee, tea, herbal tea, creamer, sugar, sweetener. You may want to have two coffee makers—one for regular and one for decaf, and something to make hot water for the tea.
- Recruit someone to make coffee, set up, and clean up the refreshment table each week.
- _____

One Week Ahead:

- Review **PROJECT LIFE** Week 1 on the DVD and in the Handbooks.
- Ask your Prayer Team to pray for the final preparations and for the start of the series.
- Do a video and sound check in the room. We cannot overemphasized the importance of this.
 - "Troubleshoot" and buy cables, etc. Make sure screen is visible.
 - Make sure sound is sufficient. Keep in mind, people absorb noise, so what sounds loud enough in an empty room will not sound enough in a full room. Do this with your techie.
- Finalize your arrangements to have the room set up with tables and chairs, the DVD equipment set up and coffee/tea service in place.
- Ask a volunteer to bring in a simple snack for Week 1.
- _____
- _____
- _____



WEEK 1

Age Old Enemies: Life and Death

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 1.
- Bring the Resource Lists and place on back table so participants can take one if they wish.
- Have easel paper ready with **Age Old Enemies: Life and Death** written on it.

DURING THE SESSION:

- Welcome the group and distribute the Handbooks.
- During **Opening Prayer and Activity**: Explain course details to the class by reviewing the **Introduction** in the PROJECT LIFE Handbook, PG-6. Be sure to emphasize -
 - a. The Goals of PROJECT LIFE.
 - b. What to expect from each session.
- Have the participants complete the self-test on page PG-9. Tell the participants that they will be doing this self-test again, in Session 8, when you will give the answers.
- Introduce the PROJECT LIFE DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:

"In this presentation, Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans for Life, will introduce you to the roots of our culture's devaluing of life and the biblical basis for Christians to emphasize the value of every human life, from conception to natural death."
- When starting **Group Reflection**, be sure to go over the small group discussion guidelines found on page PG-7 of the PROJECT LIFE Handbook and page 12 of the Leader's Guide.
- At **Closing Thoughts and Prayers**, have people place their insights on the easel marked, *Age Old Enemies: Life and Death*.
- Remind participants to do **Personal Study and Reflection** in their Handbook.
- Ask a volunteer to bring snack the next week.
- Lead the group through the **Prayer for Life** in the Handbook.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD and copies of the Resource List.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes. Keep for following week.
- Let the clergy know how the session went.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Give your Prayer Team an update. Ask them to be in particular prayer for the next session, **Abortion: The Most Pronounced Symptom of the Culture of Death**, as that may be a time when people become upset.
- Work through the **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Preview the next session on the DVD and in the Handbook.

Self-Test Your Knowledge of PRO-LIFE ISSUES

WEEK 1

Age Old Enemies:
Life and Death

Participant Guide Pg. PG-9



Before we begin **PROJECT LIFE**,

let's test your knowledge of Life issues with these 20 questions.

In Session 8, we will take this test again and provide the answers.

- 1. When is abortion legal in the United States?**
 - A. Only in the first 3 months
 - B. Throughout the entire span of pregnancy
 - C. Only in the first 6 months
- 2. True or False: Abortions rarely occur after the first trimester of pregnancy.**
- 3. True or False: Some states use tax dollars to pay for the abortions of women.**
- 4. True or False: Planned Parenthood is a leading pro-life organization.**
- 5. Approximately how many legal abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973?**
 - A. 25 million
 - B. 37 million
 - C. 51 million
- 6. In what state is the practice of assisted suicide legal?**
 - A. California
 - B. Hawaii
 - C. Oregon
- 7. True or False: No one knows when human life begins**
- 8. Approximately when does the heart of an unborn child begin to beat?**
 - A. Eight weeks after fertilization
 - B. Forty days after fertilization
 - C. Twenty-one days after fertilization
- 9. When do unborn babies have all their major organs in place?**
 - A. Sixteen weeks after fertilization
 - B. Eight weeks after fertilization
 - C. Thirteen weeks after fertilization
- 10. When do unborn babies start sucking their thumbs?**
 - A. Eight weeks after fertilization
 - B. Twelve weeks after fertilization
 - C. Twenty weeks after fertilization
- 11. Condoms are completely effective for protecting against**
 - A. Unplanned pregnancies
 - B. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
 - C. Both
 - D. Neither
- 12. True or False: Embryonic stem cell research has never been used to cure any human patient.**
- 13. In animal studies, embryonic stem cells have been shown to?**
 - A. Cause tumors
 - B. Be rejected by the recipient's body
 - C. Both of the above
- 14. African-American women comprise approximately 13% of the US population. What percentage of abortions are performed on African-American women?**
 - A. 38%
 - B. 16%
 - C. 30%
- 15. True or False: Only one state in the U.S. has legalized assisted suicide.**
- 16. True or False: Coerced abortion is currently occurring in China.**
- 17. What makes human beings valuable?**
 - A. Size
 - B. Weight
 - C. Mental capacity
 - D. None of the above
- 18. According to Alan Hazlett, the past president of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, how many couples are looking to adopt for every new born child available for adoption?**
 - A. 4 or 5
 - B. 30 to 40
 - C. 20 to 25
- 19. Somatic cell nuclear transfer is another name for what?**
 - A. Stem cell research
 - B. Abortion
 - C. Cloning
- 20. Research using stem cells from adults and/or umbilical cords has helped people with which of the following diseases?**
 - A. Parkinson's
 - B. Leukemia
 - C. Spinal-cord injuries
 - D. All of the above



WEEK 1

Age Old Enemies: Life and Death

Opening Prayer

Dear God, as we begin this series, we start by thanking You for the gift of Life and for Your inspired Scripture that teaches us about Life. Please open our hearts and minds to learn all that You want us to. We commit these 8 weeks to You and ask that Your Holy Spirit be our teacher. May this study increase our knowledge of life and death, inspiring us to take the light of Your love into the world. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Activity

Share your name and what you hope to learn through PROJECT LIFE. Do the Self-Test found on page PG-9, and view the DVD.

WEEK 1 DVD Presentation

In this presentation, Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans For Life, will introduce you to the roots of our culture's devaluing of life and the biblical basis for the Christian belief in the value of every human life from conception to natural death. ***Please take notes using this outline:***

I. The Culture Of Death

A. Fails to honor intrinsic worth of human life

B. Is rooted in rebellion against God

C. Death in biblical times



The Culture of Death

Definition:

A culture that fails to recognize the infinite worth of every human person and chooses death as a solution to its problems.

D. Eugenics, population control, 1960s sexual revolution, legalized abortion

WEEK 1

Age Old Enemies:

Life and Death

Participant Guide Pg. PG-11

E. Impact of desensitization to death



II. The Gospel Of Life

A. How God values each human life

B. Creation of humanity in His own image

C. Redemption of humanity by Jesus Christ

D. Scriptures relating to the valuing of human life

The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that since 1973, in the United States, more than 56 million unborn babies have been aborted.

According to Global Life Campaign, who has been working to collect reliable statistics from over 120 nations and territories for the last 30 years, there have been approximately 1 billion abortions worldwide. (The majority occurring in China.)

In 2013, 8,065 people died by Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in the US, Belgium and Holland.

More than 41,000 Americans committed suicide in 2013.

III. Christian Heritage

A. People



B. Church

The Gospel of Life

Definition:

The Gospel of Christ, for He is Life.

The drama of Christ's redeeming intervention through the cross, resurrection and ascension.

The foundation for all evangelism, love, compassion and the great Commission.

GROUP *Reflection*

1. In the DVD Georgette Forney describes the Culture of Death. What examples from the presentation stick out in your mind?

What other examples can you think of?

2. Why does the Gospel of Life emphasize the intrinsic value of each human life?

How should we, as Christians, value human life?

3. What are some examples of Christians advocating for life?

How do their examples speak to us?

4. Read the following Bible verses cited in the presentation. What do they tell us about human life?

Psalm 8:4-6, Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Psalm 139:13-16, and 1 John 5:11-12

5. Read Genesis 1:27. If God is the creator of every human life, how should that affect our attitude towards human life?

Bible verses:

Psalm 8:4-6 What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Psalm 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share their thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— Prayer for Life —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.

Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

For Further Personal Study & Reflection

1. Please visit www.AnglicansForLife.org and look around a little.
Read some of the Abortion articles, share something with a friend or family member.
2. As you go through your week, try to identify where you see the culture of death being promoted in the news media, entertainment and society.
3. Consider: How do you think the church as a whole ought to address the Culture of Death? What do you think your church needs to do?

4. Review these verses in your Bible:

Psalm 8:1-6, Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Psalm 139:13-16, and 1 John 5:11-12

What further insights about human life do you see in these passages?



Script of Week 1 DVD Presentation

Main Objective: To contrast the Culture of Death with the Gospel of Life and establish the Scriptural foundation for the remainder of the course.

Introduction:

Welcome to Week One of PROJECT Life!

I'm Deacon Georgette Forney, president of Anglicans for Life, and it's my hope and prayer that you will find deeper meaning of God's design for life as you participate in this series.

This program is designed to provide Christians with a comprehensive snapshot of abortion, adoption, abstinence, euthanasia, and stem cell research, five topics that generate a lot of debate in our culture. For Christians, the Sanctity of human Life from conception to natural death is a core principle of our Judeo-Christian faith.

Sadly Sanctity of Life Issues have all too often been silenced in the church but it is clear that there are many believers who uphold the sacredness of Life and are committed to working together to make a difference for life in the church. Anglicans for Life provides an opportunity for such ministry and that is why I am so excited that you are participating in this important class.

When I began leading this ministry in 1998, it was known then as the National Organization of Episcopalians for Life (NOEL), I knew very little about life and death issues. It took me a couple of years of reading everything I could get my hands on, attending conferences, and listening to every cassette tape in the old NOEL library to understand the pros and cons of all the Life Issues.

As I traveled around and shared what I had learned, I began to see the need for a simple program to pass along important information about these topics. And that's why we developed this series; to help you become better informed. Our prayer is that by the end of our eight-weeks together, you will understand the various life topics and be inspired to protect human life at the local, state, national, and global level.

To get started, it is crucial to understand the biblical view of human life and how our culture continuously disregards this perspective. Therefore, this first week's session is entitled: Age Old Enemies: Life and Death.

Culture of Death

Throughout the world today, death is a common theme reflected in the daily news.

Headlines regularly highlight how the world has morphed into what Pope John Paul II, in his 1995 encyclical *The Gospel of Life*, called the "culture of death."

The Culture of Death is a culture that fails to recognize the infinite worth of every human person and chooses death instead as a solution to its problems. This is nothing new. The culture of death has been around since the beginning of human history and it has its roots in rebellion against God.

Rebellion Against God

In Genesis 3, we see Adam and Eve's rebellion against God that unleashes evil, with a hate for life and a love for death.

In Genesis 4, Cain ignores God's counsel to resist evil and the first death is recorded in the Bible when Cain murders his brother Abel. God's response in verses 10-11 to the first killing is indicative of His response to every

murder, especially when the victim is innocent, God says to Cain, "Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. Now you are under a curse."

In the ancient times, paganism promoted the practice of child sacrifice, abandonment of newborn babies, and infanticide. The Lord specifically prohibited child sacrifice in Leviticus 18:21.

Nonetheless, victimization of the innocent continues to take place throughout the centuries. At the time of Jesus, abortions and child exposure were practiced in the Roman Empire. As well, in Matthew 2:16-18, we see a brutal slaughter of male children in Bethlehem in Herod's attempt to kill the infant Jesus. We commemorate these children on Holy Innocents Day every December 28.

Eugenics to Abortion

In the last 100 years, the most obvious example of the culture of death was the rise of Eugenics, which advocates for the elimination, the death of "unfit" humans. Proponents of Eugenics include historic men and women like Charles Darwin, Adolf Hitler, and Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood.

The Holocaust declared 6 million Jewish people expendable.

Population Control Advocates, fearing the earth would run out of resources, began promoting the acceptance of birth control to prevent pregnancies and abortion to end pregnancies worldwide in the 1940's, 50's, and 60's.

Sadly in 1958, the Lambeth Conference accepted the population control movement's propaganda and affirmed the need for family planning in a Resolution, never imagining that within a decade family planning would include abortion.

In the mid 1960's, efforts to change anti-abortion laws starting at the state level intensified and, by the end of the decade, two women were found to challenge state laws. Their cases ultimately landed before the Supreme Court, and were used to legalize killing an unborn child in the womb all nine months of pregnancy.

Abortion, of course, was not the only example of the growing influence of the culture of death. Towards the end of the 20th century, Jack Kevorkian, aka Dr. Death, publicly promoted and practiced physician assisted suicide - an idea that would have been abhorrent a few decades earlier.

You can see the growing desensitization to the value of human life in these public statements:

Patricia Beninato founder of I'mNotSorry.net said in a WORLD Magazine interview quote, "Yes, a fetus is alive. But weeds are life and mold is life and bugs are life and we destroy those on a regular basis."

Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University and an animal rights activist, advocates for infanticide, stating that parents should have the right to end the life of their newborn up to the first 30 days after birth.

And in case you thought paganism was a relic of the past and thereby irrelevant, here is one account I want to share with you: Sonja, a girl I met in a North Dakota jail who came to know the Lord after my visit there in 2006, wrote to me and shared her testimony. In addition to having multiple abortions, Sonja said her greatest shame was sacrificing her baby daughter in a pagan ritual in Florida in the 1980's.

Impact of the Culture of Death

What is the impact of the culture of death? Here are some recent statistics.

According to Global Life Campaign, who has been working to collect reliable statistics from over 120 nations and territories for the last 30 years, there have been approximately 1 billion abortions worldwide.

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute there were 1.1 million abortions in the US in 2011. Since 1973, approximately 56 million babies have died by abortion.

A brief search on the internet showed in 2013, 8,065 people died by Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in the US, Belgium and Holland.

In June of 2014, Quebec became the first Canadian province to legalize euthanasia as its National Assembly voted to allow doctors to euthanize their patients using the medical term "medical aid in dying."

These statistics and updates are just the tip of the iceberg. They highlight what happens when society rejects the sacredness of life and embraces selfishness that allows us to think we can play God in choosing who lives and who dies.

Gospel of Life

While the lord of Death, Satan, seeks all power and control of the world, we must remember the victory belongs to Life in Jesus Christ. For Christians, we need to counteract the culture of death with the Gospel of Life because Scripture teaches that every human being has infinite value in the eyes of the Lord.

It is important to understand that the Gospel of Life shows that God made man in His image. Consider Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Did you notice that in this one verse, the word 'create' is used three times? God wants to emphasize the uniqueness of man and woman above the rest of creation.

God is clearly stating HE is the Creator of everything including Human Beings. But it gets better when you really dwell on it – Scripture is saying God created MAN in HIS Image.

J. Vernon Magee, one of my favorite Bible scholars, says, quote "God is the essentially a personal Being, and in giving the man an immortal soul, He gave him also a true personality. Man has a self-consciousness, he has the power of free choice and he has a distinct moral responsibility. Man is in the image of God."

Ponder that truth my friends.

Second, God, the Father, so loved humanity that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us from sin and death.

The Gospel of Life is simply the Gospel of Christ, for He is Life. The Gospel of Life is revealed in the great drama of Jesus Christ's redeeming intervention through the cross, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus died our death that we may live. The Gospel of Life is the foundation for all evangelism, love, compassion, and even the great Commission. As God's sons and daughters we are the guardians of the Gospel of Life.

Therefore, a true Christian culture must be a culture of life, a culture that sees the protection of persons and their moral, intellectual, and spiritual development as the defining goals of society. Whatever contradicts these goals cannot be promoted or pursued by Christians.

Here are some key passages from Scripture showing how God loves and values human life:

Psalm 8:1-6 "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet."

Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him."

Psalm 139:13-16 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not

hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Finally, 1 John 5:11-12 “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

Christian Heritage of Promoting Life

In addition to Scripture teaching us that Life is precious to God, our Christian heritage is filled with examples of people advocating for the sacredness of life.

For instance, after St. Vincent De Paul learned about midwives performing illegal abortions in the slums of Paris he made it clear that upholding the Sanctity of Life was not an optional activity for believers. He said, “Whenever God’s people gather, there is life in the midst of them. Christ’s gift to us as a people is life and that more abundantly. To protect the least of these, our brethren, with everything that God has placed at our disposal is not merely optional, it is required. In addition though, it is among the greatest and most satisfying of our sundry stewardships.” The Society of Vincent De Paul still exists today, living out the Gospel and serving others.

When missionaries went out to the world to preach the Gospel, they found themselves advocating the sacredness of human life. In cultures suffering with terrible poverty, brutality, lawlessness, and disease, those faithful Christian witnesses lived out the Christian concepts of grace, charity, law, medicine, and the Sanctity of Life. They established hospitals. They founded orphanages. They started rescue missions. They changed laws. They demonstrated love. They lived as if people really mattered.

Other examples of Christians who advocated for the least include William Carey, who fought to outlaw widow burning in India, and William Wilberforce, who fought to end slavery.

In the Anglican tradition, we also have a history of commitment to the sanctity of life. In the late 1800s, after reading a series of articles that exposed the deaths of women from abortion, church leaders took up the cause for life, including the Right Reverend Arthur Cleveland Cox, the Episcopal Bishop of the New York Diocese. In an interview for the August 1868 issue of *The Christian Mirror*, Bp. Cox stated, “Though physicians and journalists have laid much of the groundwork for the exposure of this awful crime against God and man, it is the Christian churches, all of the churches across the broad spectrum of denomination and sect, that have brought hope and help to the innocents. For a glittering moment, I have seen Christ’s Body as one.” It was this unified effort between Christians, journalists, physicians, politicians, and feminists that made abortion illegal in the United States and Canada by the end of the 19th century.

Today, the majority of the Anglican Communion upholds the sanctity of life. Unfortunately the Episcopal Church in the United States supports the right to abortion, and the new Anglican Church in North America included a statement in support of the Sanctity of Life in its founding canons.

Since 1966, the Episcopal/Anglican Church has had a life affirming ministry seeking to uphold the sacredness of life. Originally founded as Episcopalians for Life, Anglicans for Life now has Chapters throughout the world. Including our newest, Anglicans for Life Canada. We invite Anglicans from all across the country who wish to uphold the Sanctity of Life to join together with us in this important ministry.

Conclusion

We hope this brief review of the age old battle between life and death will set the stage for the next seven weeks as we look at Abortion, the After-effects of abortion, Adoption, Abstinence, Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide, and Stem Cell /Cloning/Biotechnology. We pray that at the end of this course you will be better informed and more active in standing against the culture of death and upholding the Gospel of Life! Thank you.



WEEK 2

Abortion: The Most Pronounced Symptom of the Culture of Death

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 2.
- Bring the Resource Lists and place on back table so participants can take one if they wish.
- Have easel paper ready with **Abortion: The Most Pronounced Symptom of the Culture of Death** on it. Post previous weeks' easel papers.

DURING THE SESSION:

- During **Opening Prayer and Activity**: Lead the participants through the prayer and thoughts for this session.
- Introduce the PROJECT LIFE DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:
"In this presentation, Georgette will discuss the facts surrounding abortion and how abortion became legal."
- When starting **Group Reflection**, review the small group discussion guidelines on P. PG-17 of the PROJECT LIFE Handbook.
- At **Closing Thoughts and Prayers**, have people place their insights on the easel marked, **Abortion: The Most Pronounced Symptom of the Culture of Death**.
- Remind participants to do **Personal Study and Reflection** in their Handbook.
- Ask a volunteer to bring snack the next week.
- Lead the group through the **Prayer for Life** on the back page of the Handbook.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD and copies of the Resource List.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes. Keep for following week.
- Let the clergy know how the session went.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Thank your Prayer Team and give them an update. Ask them to be in particular prayer for the next session, **After Abortion: Truth and Consequences**, as that may be a time when people become upset.
- Work through the **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Preview the next session on the DVD and in the Handbook.



WEEK 2 Abortion: The Most Pronounced Symptom of the Culture of Death

Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, as we learn about abortion in our culture, give us courage to use the information to affirm the sanctity of life. Help us to be bold in sharing the truth about abortion with our friends and family. And may You help the United States and every country that supports legalized abortion to see the harm it does to the nations.
In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Opening Activity

What do you know about abortion?
Why is this topic still debated in our society?
What do you think of when you hear the word "Abortion"?

WEEK 2 DVD Presentation

In this presentation, Georgette will discuss the facts surrounding abortion and how abortion became legal. Warning: There is a graphic depiction of abortion procedures in the video.

Please take notes using this outline:

Abortion

I. The Facts of Abortion

II. Development of the Baby in the womb

III. Types of abortions



- 56 million US abortions since 1973
- 3,000 Abortions daily
- 125 babies die every hour
- 1 abortion every 29 seconds

- 93% of abortions performed annually are for 'elective' reasons
- 1% of abortions are for rape/incest victims
- 3% for mother's health
- 3% health of the child after genetic testing reveals an abnormality



8 Weeks
 1.25 inches long
 Begins to move muscles
 Skeleton formed
 Has ears, eyelids & fingerprints
 Sex identifiable



12 Weeks
 3 inches long
 Can suck thumb, hear & hiccup
 Fingers can grasp object
 Lung & brain growth complete
 Baby moves vigorously



20 Weeks
 Weighs approx. 1 lb.
 6.5 inches long
 Can survive outside womb
 Fingernails & toenails present
 Mother feels baby hiccup

Images by Linda Brenegan

IV. When do women get abortions?

V. Why do women get abortions?

VI. Who has abortions?

VII. History of abortion

A. Roe v. Wade

B. Doe v. Bolton

C. Legal status of abortion – United States/Worldwide

IX. What is the strategy of pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood?

Click here to get info on Life laws in your state:
www.DL.AUL.org

Click here to get info on Life laws & statistics worldwide:
www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com

To get updates on the United Nations work:
www.c-fam.org

RU-486
 Abortion Pill can be Reversed
www.AbortionPillReversal.com



WEEK 2

Abortion

Participant Guide Pg. PG-16

GROUP

Reflection

1. The DVD presented some aspects of fetal development.
What was new to you?
2. **What else did you learn about abortion in this presentation?**
Was there anything that surprised you?
3. **Based on what we've learned so far, what new strategies occur to you for dealing with abortion?**
4. **Read** Luke 1:41, Exodus 21:22-25, and Amos 1:13-15.
What do these verses imply about unborn babies?

What do the verses in Exodus and Amos imply will happen to those who seek to destroy the unborn in their mothers' wombs?

African-American women of child-bearing age make up about 12% of the U.S. population but they have about 38% of all abortions.

Alan Guttmacher Institute



Bible verses:

Luke 1:41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 21:22-25 If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Amos 1:13-15 This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Ammon, even for four, I will not turn back {my wrath}. Because he ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to extend his borders, I will set fire to the walls of Rabbah that will consume her fortresses amid war cries on the day of battle, amid violent winds on a stormy day. Her king will go into exile, he and his officials together," says the LORD.



Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share their thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— *Prayer for Life* —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.

Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

For Further Personal Study & Reflection:

1. What impressed you most about what you learned in class?
What questions do you still have?
2. Check out these websites www.AnglicansforLife.org and http://www.gutmacher.org/presentations/abort_slides.pdf.
3. What do you believe is the strongest argument against abortion?
4. How should the church address the issue of abortion?
5. Read and reflect on John 10:10. Give thanks to the Lord for your life, especially your life in Him! Read Matthew 19:13-15. What does Jesus say when they want to prevent little ones from coming to Him? Read Psalm 8:2. What does God want from little ones?

Script of Week 2 of DVD Presentation

Main Objective: to explain abortion and track its rise in the United States and the world, with a focus on pre-born baby development, who has abortions, and why women make this choice

Introduction:

Last week we looked at the great battle between the culture of death and the Gospel of Life. This week and for the next six weeks we will look at the various life and death issues that impact our culture today, starting this week with abortion. Typically when we talk about abortion, the discussion focuses on political or legal debates but today we will dig deeper into the reality of abortion, what it really is and why women have them.

The Facts of Abortion

As noted last week since 1973, more than 56 million babies have been aborted in the United States. At current rates, there are 3,000 abortions performed daily.

Development of the Baby

The two most common arguments used to support legalized abortion have centered on the inhumanity of the baby and women needing the right to abortion. So let's start our discussion with the baby. Proponents of abortion describe the baby in the womb as a blob of tissue, or a clump of cells, but ultrasound technology has given us a window into that sacred space that clearly shows it is a human life. These images of the fetus, the baby in the womb, make it abundantly clear that abortion ends the life of a human being.

By the time, a woman knows she is pregnant, the baby's heart has begun beating; at eight weeks he or she is sucking their thumb and all the major organs have begun developing. By week 10 the baby's fingerprints are forming; by week 11 he is practicing breathing and facial expressions. At week 12, the baby is about three inches in length and is able to swallow and feel and respond to touch. From this point, the baby in the womb is simply growing in preparation for its birth.

How and when abortions are performed?

To help us understand how these unborn babies are aborted I've asked Dr. Dick Douglas, retired obstetrician and gynecologist from the United States, to explain the typical techniques used in hospitals and clinics.

Video Clip

Thank you Dr. Douglas and Wendy Wright, former president of Concerned Women for America.

As Dr. Douglas explained, the D & C procedure is commonly used during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy which is when 89% of all abortions are performed. 10% occur during weeks 13 thru 20 and 1% or 11,000 abortions occur after week 21.

Why do women have abortions?

Women who have abortions don't typically see abortion as a right they are exercising. They explain their decision to abort is based on a lack of support – either emotional or financial support. Maybe the father of the baby isn't

willing to help, or friends say now isn't the time to have a baby, parents may question your ability to parent, or express concern about being able to finish school, and provide for the baby. Often women feel like we have no choice but to abort our child. Our image of what motherhood was supposed to be doesn't line up with actual circumstances and we are afraid. Abortion seems like the only choice.

Women are often pressured to abort by their partner, parents, or friends. A few years ago a study was done in the US that found 65% of women who had an abortion said they felt pressured by someone to have it. The threat of being kicked out of your house, losing your job, or college scholarship, is scary and can be intimidating. One woman who contacted me had been taken to the clinic at gun point and, every year on the anniversary of her abortion, she would call and ask me to help her find the clinic where her baby was killed.

The threat of violence goes along with the pressure to abort and we have seen an increase in attacks on pregnant women that is centered on the stomach where the baby is vulnerable. When a woman refuses an abortion, we see efforts to kill the baby through violence, which often results in the mother's death as well, making homicide the leading cause of death for pregnant women in the U.S..

We also see a growing trend in many countries where women are having abortions because of the gender of the baby. This is especially prevalent in China and India but undercover interviews with Planned Parenthood employees in the States highlighted an approval of performing abortions when the baby's sex is not what the parents want.

Over the years, abortion proponents have justified access to legal abortion using the argument that women who become pregnant through rape and or have health problems need the right to abort their child. But this is a classic example of bait and switch! In the US, the Alan Guttmacher Institute, which is the research arm of Planned Parenthood, the biggest provider of abortions in America, collects an extensive amount of information about the women who come into their clinics. They report that 93% of the abortions they performed annually in the US are for 'elective' reasons. And only 1% of abortions are for Rape/Incest victims, 3% for the health of the Mother and 3% for the Health of the child after genetic testing reveals an abnormality.

Who has abortions?

Most abortions are performed on women 20 to 29 year olds and more than half of the women having abortions already have at least one child. Also 27% identify themselves as Catholic, 43% as Protestant, and 13% identify themselves as "Born Again." This highlights the need for the Church to address this topic. Abortion is happening in our parishes.

Finally it is important to note that almost 50% of abortions performed today in the US are on women who have had at least one abortion already. Repeat abortions are very common and next week we will dig deeper to understand the trauma behind women who have multiple abortions.

Historical Perspective

We've looked at abortion from the baby's perspective and the mother's. Now let's widen the lens and take a look at the history of abortion. When was the word first used and how did it become legal in the United States?

Scripture does not use the word abortion, but it does refer to child sacrifice, as noted last week. Abortion is first found in the Didache, a first century apostolic document that states, "Do not murder a child by 'abortion,'" and Tertullian, a third century apologist further teaches, "We may not destroy the fetus in the womb."

Abortion in the United States

Abortion was legal in the US during most of the 1800's until Feminists, journalists, and members of the clerical and medical community, worked together to outlaw abortion unless necessary to save the life of the mother.

In 1962, Sherri Finkbine provided an emotional face in the media in the quest to legalize abortion. While pregnant, she took thalidomide, not knowing that the drug could hinder the development of limbs in the pre-born child. She was denied an abortion in America, but had the procedure done in Sweden. Five years later Colorado became the first state to liberalize its abortion laws.

Things became more intense in 1969, when Lawrence Lader and Dr. Bernard Nathanson founded the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws, now called NARAL Pro-Choice America. Nathanson later renounced his abortion stance and admitted to falsifying statistics in order to garner sympathy for the pro-abortion cause. Then, in 1970, a court battle in Texas involving a woman who had reportedly been raped and wanted to have an abortion changed the course of history. Known as Roe versus Wade, this Supreme Court case, handed down on January 22, 1973, eliminated laws in 30 states prohibiting abortion.

Abortion was declared a constitutional right and shielded abortion providers from regulations. and its sister case Doe v. Bolton extended those rights the entire nine months of pregnancy.

By the way - Norma McCorvey, who was known as Jane Roe, wasn't raped, and she never had an abortion but she did become a Christian and now works to end abortion. And Sandra Cano, known as Jane Doe, ran away from Georgia when her attorney and mother tried to force her to have an abortion.

Both women truly regret that their names are forever linked with legalizing abortion.

Since 1973, many states have passed a variety of laws designed to protect women, and girls as well as the unborn. Laws like parental consent, informed consent, the right to view ultrasounds, clinic regulations, 24-hour waiting period, and no coercion laws are helping women choose life. Recently a new type of law is being passed in some states for abortions after 20 weeks. The law requires the mother to be advised that her baby in utero can feel pain and gives the mother the right to request anesthesia for the baby. This law is helping educate people about the humanity and life of the baby.

Abortion throughout the world

It is important to add that abortion is now legal in most countries except African and Latin American countries. To learn more about international abortion laws, visit this website: www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com It offers a detailed list of each country's abortion laws and limits. The country with the most extreme abortion laws is China. They have a one-child per couple policy that has opened the door to many forced abortions.

The biggest proponents of abortion both here in America and abroad is the International Planned Parenthood Federation, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and IPAs. They all work in conjunction with the United Nations to use treaties and declarations to imply abortion is a woman's right. I've asked Austin Ruse to explain this a bit more;

Video Clip

Thank you Austin.

Pro-Abortion Strategy

The last thing I'd like to note is where abortion clinics are located. Most clinics are located in areas where vulnerable and poor women reside, university and college campuses and urban areas.

It is important for us to learn about the clinics and hospitals in our own communities, where abortions are performed. Do a quick search online for abortion help or Planned Parenthood along with your zip code and see what shows up.

Check out their websites and read what they say, how they make an unplanned pregnancy sound terrible and abortion easy. Look at the advice they post and ask yourself if you want your female family and friends to seek their help or yours when facing an unplanned pregnancy. As proponents of abortion, these providers are interested in recruiting clients and making money not 'helping women'. They are set on promoting abortion regardless of whether or not it is good for the health and well-being of women, which is what we will be discussing next week.

Conclusion

One final note - to counter abortion clinics I am happy to report there are approximately 2,500 pregnancy resource centers throughout the United States, reaching out to help pregnant women so they have real choices. These centers connect mothers to needed parenting resources and are possible because of the efforts of thousands of Christians partnering with churches to underwrite the critical ministry done at these special pregnancy centers.

Thank you for watching today. See you next week!



WEEK 3

After Abortion: Truth and Consequences

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 3.
- Bring the Resource Lists and place on back table so participants can take one if they wish.
- Have easel paper ready with **After Abortion: Truth and Consequences** on it. Post previous weeks' easel papers.

DURING THE SESSION:

- During **Opening Prayer and Activity**: Lead the participants through the prayer and thoughts for this session.
- Introduce the DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:
"In this session, Georgette will talk about the aftereffects of abortion, particularly upon the women who have undergone the procedure."
- When starting **Group Reflection**, remind people to follow the small group discussion guidelines. There should be no need to go over the rules again.
- At **Closing Thoughts and Prayers**, have people place their insights on the easel marked, **After Abortion: Truth and Consequences**.
- Remind participants to do **Personal Study and Reflection** in their Handbook.
- Ask a volunteer to bring snack the next week.
- Lead the group through the **Prayer for Life** on the back page of the Handbook.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD and copies of the Resource List.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes. Keep for following week.
- Let the clergy know how the session went.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Thank your Prayer Team and give them an update. Ask them to be in particular prayer for the next session, **Adoption: The Gospel of Life in Unexpected Pregnancies** as it is important for the church to know how to respond to unexpected pregnancies.
- Work through the **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Preview the next session on the DVD and in the Handbook.



WEEK 3 After Abortion: Truth and Consequences

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, Lord of all compassion, help us understand the pain and consequences those who have had abortions often live with. Pour out Your mercy and grace to women and men personally touched by abortion and those who perform them. We also ask You to bless abortion after-care ministries that help the hurting, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Opening Activity

What else did you learn about abortion this week?
During an abortion, the unborn baby dies,
what do you think the after-effects are for the mother, the father?

WEEK 3 DVD Presentation

Abortion is usually presented as a woman's reproductive right, but as Georgette explains in this WEEK, the legal right has come at a high price for those who actually go through the procedure. The reality of how abortion effects and changes those who personally experience it, is the missing element in the abortion debate... until now! **Please take notes using this outline:**

I. Effects of Abortion on Women

A. Emotional

B. Physical

C. Spiritual

“After abortion “my marriage was never the same. Something was gone. It broke my heart.”

Judy Garland

D. The effects of abortion on men

E. The efforts of abortion on surviving children

II. Help and healing

III. Rape and abortion

“After almost 30 years of carrying the grief of my abortion, I learned that God not only could, but He desired to forgive me of this terrible sin. As I was going through my healing, I saw one of the Silent No More TV ads. I had never seen anything like this on TV before, and it just confirmed to me that this was the path the Lord wanted me to be on.”

Sherry, Alaska



*Recommendation

“Women who have had abortions need to have a mammogram eight years after the abortion. For example, if a woman has an abortion at age 20, she should be screened at age 28.”

Breast Cancer Specialist, Dr. Angela Lanfranchi

Almost half of the abortions that occur each day in America are repeat abortions. Multiple abortions are common now.

The AGI states that about one-third of American women will have had an abortion by age 45.



The Silent No More Awareness Campaign is a special project, co-sponsored by Anglicans FOR LIFE and Priests for Life. The Campaign seeks to expose the secrecy and silence surrounding abortion and offer help and healing to women, men and families.

A repentant heart opens the door to reconciliation and forgiveness for all who have been involved in an abortion(s). We invite anyone who has personal experience with abortion to repent, receive reconciliation and register your regret at Silentnomore.com. You can also find a complete list of abortion after-care programs on the website.

GROUP *Reflection*

1. What are some of the effects of abortion on women who have undergone the procedure?

Why do you think it is important for us to understand these after-effects?

Why do you think physical complications are not often reported?

Were you surprised to see men struggle after their child is aborted?

2. Why do you think abortion has a negative effect on women when it's supposed to fix their problems?

3. Frederica Matthewes-Green, noted author and pro-life advocate, says that we have come to "culturally depend" on abortion to solve the problem of unexpected pregnancies.

How is this true?

What examples can you recall?

4. How can we pray for and help women affected by abortion?

5. Read Romans 5:6-11, Romans 8:38 and 2 Corinthians 1: 3-6. What do these verses tell us about His love for us? What do these verses imply about the forgiveness that God offers for all sins, including abortion?

Bible verses:

Romans 5:6-11 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 1:3-6 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share their thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— *Prayer for Life* —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.

Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

For Further Personal Study & Reflection

1. Visit www.AnglicansforLife.org and www.silentnomore.com to find out more about after-effects of abortion.
2. Do you know anyone affected by abortion? Pray for that person. Pray for all those who have been affected by abortion. If you have been affected by abortion, contact someone for prayer and support. You can speak to your Leader or find contact information at www.silentnomore.com.
3. What could you do to help your church provide women with real choices other than abortion?
4. Read this verses in your Bible: 1 John 2:1 -2 and reflect upon these words. What does this passage say about the power and willingness of Christ to forgive all sins?

How does it apply to your life? Spend some time in prayer thanking the Lord for how He forgives ALL sin. Pray that your own awareness of this truth will grow. Pray also for people involved in abortion, that they will turn to the Lord and receive His mercy.

Script of Week 3 of DVD Presentation

Main Objective: To expose the emotional, physical, and spiritual effects abortion has on the women who have them, as well as how it impacts men, children, and society.

Introduction

Last time we met, we talked about the two most common arguments used to support legalized abortion that centered on either the inhumanity of baby or the woman's right to abortion. We saw pictures of babies in the womb that showed their development and that they weren't just a blob of tissue as abortion proponents want us to believe. We also spent a lot of time talking about why women have abortions. During this week we will continue to address abortion from the woman's perspective by asking and answering the question: Is abortion good for women?

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 3 in 10 women will have an abortion by age 45. And it is now very common for women to have multiple abortions.

In fact, I think it is safe to say everyone knows someone who has had an abortion – we are everywhere, including your church pews. But we rarely feel it is okay to discuss our feelings and experience for fear of judgment.

Effects: Emotional

After 40 plus years of legal abortion we know the abortion experience impacts every woman emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Sometimes we channel our feelings by becoming either supporters of abortion or strong opponents. But often we aren't even conscious that our thoughts, feelings and behavior are tied to our abortion experience.

For many the abortion procedure itself is a very traumatic event that changes us, immediately altering our lives. For others, we learn how to hide, deny, medicate, numb, or ignore the pain and grief. I denied my abortion for 19 years except when I heard the word abortion, then it felt like someone stuck a knife in my stomach and twisted it. Many of us find ourselves dealing with drug or alcohol abuse to numb the pain, insomnia and nightmares, eating disorders, and suicidal feelings are common problems we deal with for afterwards. We have difficulty maintaining or developing relationships. Some of us feel very alone, isolated, angry, have a fear of the unknown, are indecisive and live with a sense of self-hatred. There have been numerous studies that prove the psychological harm of abortion is more damaging than carrying the baby to term.

The following stories are living examples of what I'm talking about. (4 min)

Video clip

These women are part of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign a special ministry co-sponsored by Anglicans for Life that seeks to raise awareness about the consequences after abortion. The Campaign also encourages people with abortion histories to attend Christian based healing programs specifically designed to address the emotional and spiritual fallout we feel and privately struggle with.

Effects: Physical

Another common theme in many of the women's testimonies relate to the physical problems experienced after the abortion. The women's stories confirm the findings of a study done by The British Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in England. The study indicates about 10% of women suffer immediate complications after an abortion such as infection, uterine perforation, hemorrhaging, cervical trauma and failed abortion or on-going

pregnancy, which is when parts of the baby are left inside the womb.

There are also long-term complications that are rarely discussed.

My friends at the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute will explain one of the long-term problems we face. (3:30)

Video clip

Thank you Angela and Charnette

Another risk women who have abortions face is premature birth.

I've asked Dr. John Thorpe to explain. (1:30)

Video clip

The most troubling long term complication from abortion is infertility – The British study noted earlier found that 1% of women who have abortions never go on to experience motherhood. That may not seem like a large number but considering the 1.1 million abortions done annually, and that means 10,000 women a year will not be able to conceive any more children because of their abortion.

How many of us have heard proponents of abortion perpetuate the myth that abortion is safer than childbirth? Well an in-depth study published in 2012 in the MedSciMonitor cites that after 10 years of studying medical records of women, and comparing women who delivered their baby with women who had an abortion, the women who had abortions had a significantly higher mortality rate the first 10 years following the abortion.

It is important to also note, women still die from the actual abortion procedure, as well as from complications that occur afterwards. Five women are known to have died in the US in the last 18 months during or immediately after the procedure.

Effects: Spiritual

Finally, abortion affects women spiritually. Many women turn away from God or fear a 'higher' power because deep down inside we know we have taken the life of another human-being, our baby. We don't feel abortion is forgivable which makes it hard to be reconciled with God or forgive ourselves. Abortion also creates a wall between us and the world as guilt and shame plague us. We fear people will learn about our secret and reject and judge us.

But it's not just women who suffer, men also struggle after abortion. Men are designed to be the protector, the knight in shining armor who saves the day! Abortion denies them the ability to protect their children and their pain is as debilitating as the women's.

Video clip

It is important to note that there are a number of outstanding healing programs for men now available. Information about them can be found in your workbook.

You may also be surprised to learn abortion affects our surviving children. The hardest part of working through my abortion pain was having to explain to our daughter Rebekah when she was 8 years old what an abortion was after she found out I had been pregnant when I was 16. She had to go through her own grieving process. These surviving siblings deal with a variety of feelings, and as mothers and fathers share their stories, the siblings are also beginning to speak about abortion's impact on their lives. This blog features stories from siblings, and they also benefit from attending healing programs.

Telling those we love about past abortions is very hard. Many women and men don't share their abortion history with those they marry because they fear they will be rejected if they do tell so often they spend years suffering in silence.

Help and Healing are Available

The good news for anyone who has had an abortion or lost a child to abortion is that help and healing is available.

There are a variety of great Christian based abortion after-care programs available throughout the world for men and women and more counsellors are beginning to address abortion as a source of pain during counseling sessions. Participants in the healing programs are introduced to Jesus as the means of finding forgiveness. As we accept God's unconditional love and forgiveness we take the first step in healing. Through scripture we are assured our children are in heaven, and we can finally forgive ourselves and find peace.

As we can see from this brief overview, abortion isn't as beneficial to women, men, siblings and our families as proponents would have us believe.

A Note about Rape and Abortion

But what about the woman who is raped and conceives a child? Abortion supporters say we need abortion for rape victims. But a study of rape victims was published as a book entitled "Victims and Victors" and the research indicated that women who became pregnant through a rape and had an abortion said the abortion was as traumatic as the rape. The victims of rape concluded the best way to help a rape victim who conceives is to provide a strong support system for her as she goes through with the pregnancy and then places the child with an adoptive family.

Silent No More Awareness Campaign

From my own experience, as well as working with thousands of women who have had abortions, we know that abortion is bad for women physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We started the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to help people see the truth of what really happens to women after abortion. As we go through healing and begin to find our voice we become billboards for the truth.

Anglicans For Life and Priests for Life are the co-sponsors of this Campaign that began in 2002. As of Sept. 2014, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign has held 1,394 Gatherings in 17 countries with 5,802 women and men sharing their abortion testimonies. Testimonies have also been shared at 95 high schools and universities in the last 4 years. There are 2,173 testimonies posted on the Campaign website, with 333 that are shared via video! Currently there are 15,639 people registered with the Campaign representing 77 countries.

And on our website, we have the names of 248 women who have died from abortion complications.

Conclusion

Clearly, abortion kills an unborn child and hurts women and men deeply.

Anglicans For Life's desire is to see abortion become unthinkable and unnecessary.

But we also need to realize that if we want to prevent the 1.1 million abortions from happening annually we as the church must step up and become part of the solution. Are we ready to help 1.1 million women choose life for their baby? With God's help and by working together I believe we can help. And that's what we will be talking about next week. How can we respond to unexpected pregnancies?



WEEK 4

Adoption: The Gospel of Life in Unexpected Pregnancies

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 4.
- Bring the Resource Lists and place on back table so participants can take one if they wish.
- Have easel paper ready with **Adoption: The Gospel of Life in Unexpected Pregnancies** on it. Post previous weeks' easel papers.

DURING THE SESSION:

- During **Opening Prayer and Activity**: Lead the participants through the prayer and thoughts for this session.
- Introduce the DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:
"In today's talk, Georgette will present a number of ways to help women who are dealing with an unexpected pregnancy, with an emphasis on adoption."
- When starting **Group Reflection**, remind people to follow the small group discussion guidelines. There should be no need to go over the rules again.
- At **Closing Thoughts and Prayers**, have people place their insights on the easel marked, **Adoption: The Gospel of Life in Unexpected Pregnancies**.
- Remind participants to do **Personal Study and Reflection** in their Handbook .
- Ask a volunteer to bring snack the next week.
- Lead the group through the **Prayer for Life** on the back page of the Handbook.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD and copies of the Resource List.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes. Keep for following week.
- Let the clergy know how the session went.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Thank your Prayer Team and give them an update. Ask them to pray for the next session, **Abstinence: The Gospel of Life vs. The Cult of Sex**, as Christians need to understand what it means for their bodies to be the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Work through the **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Preview the next session on the DVD and in the Handbook.



WEEK 4 Adoption: The Gospel of Life in Unexpected Pregnancies

Opening Prayer

Dear Father God, Thank You for this week’s teaching on adoption. Thank you for giving us the model of adoption in Scripture and adopting us into Your forever family. Bless all the families in our congregation who have adopted children. Bless the courageous birth mothers and fathers who placed their children with adopting families. Help those facing unplanned pregnancies to experience the blessing of adoption. In Jesus’ precious name we pray, Amen.

Opening Activity

From what you learned the last two weeks, why can’t we use abortion to “sweep problems under the rug”?

WEEK 4 DVD Presentation

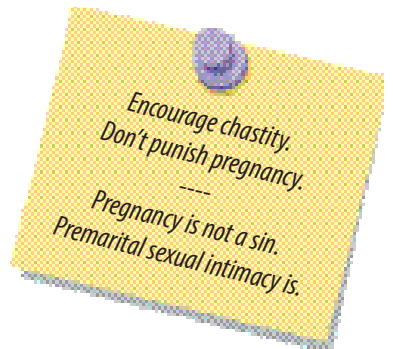
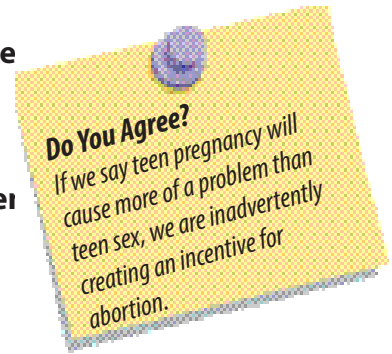
In today’s talk Georgette will present ways to offer real choices to women who are facing an unexpected pregnancy, with an emphasis on adoption. **Please take notes using this outline:**

Common Obstacles

- I. **Ideal Motherhood, Isolation, & Lonliness and Paradox: Adult/Teen**

- II. **Attitudes towards unplanned pregnancy & sex**

- III. **Resources to breakdown common obstacles**



To find a pregnancy center near you, visit OptionLine.org

IV. Choices

A. Marriage

B. Helping the mother to parent the baby

C. The adoption options

1. The experience of placing Child for Adoption

2. Breaking Stereotypes

V. Role of church to help everyone involved in adoption

REAL CHOICES:

Marriage
Parenting
Adoption

A YOUNG, PREGNANT MOM IS CONCERNED ABOUT:

Healthcare coverage
Child support/child care
Employer response
Educational support



- 51,000 American children are placed for adoption
- 6,500 foreign children are adopted by Americans
- 1% of women place their children for adoption today
- For every newborn child available for adoption, there are 20 to 40 couples seeking to adopt

GROUP

Reflection

1. What did you learn about addressing unexpected pregnancies?

How might dealing with this honestly be a challenge for a church?

2. What do you think evokes a more negative reaction in most families - the knowledge that a teen is sexually active, or the knowledge that a teen has become pregnant?

Why?

3. What are some of the negative perceptions of adoption?

How can these be addressed?

4. How can we honor and support those who adopt children?

How can we support and honor those who place children for adoption?

5. Read Ephesians 1:3-5, Galatians 4:4-6, Matthew 1:18-24, & Romans 8:15-16. Consider: What do these verses imply about adoption?

How does the example of Joseph speak to us?

How do you think we, as Christians, should view adoption?

Bible verses:

Ephesians 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Galatians 4:4-6 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Matthew 1:18-24 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Romans 8:15-16 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share their thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— *Prayer for Life* —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.

Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

ADOPTION FACTS:

- 3 out of 5 people in the U.S. are touched by adoption.
- A majority of women who have chosen adoption for their child paint a positive picture about their experience.
- Women who have chosen adoption for an unplanned pregnancy are more likely to finish school and delay marriage. They are less likely to live in poverty, receive public assistance, and have another unplanned pregnancy.
- Currently, pregnant teens get most of their info about adoption from TV, especially soap operas and talk shows which sensationalize adoption.
- Most healthcare workers mistakenly assume that those facing an unplanned pregnancy do not want to discuss adoption.
- Over 60% of pregnancy counselors never mention adoption. Of those who do, 40% give inaccurate info.



For Further Personal Study & Reflection:

WEEK 4

Adoption

Participant Guide Pg. PG-27

1. Review the handouts given by your Leader, and check the following websites:

www.optionline.org

www.nurturingnetwork.org

www.bethany.org

What do these handouts or sites tell you about alternatives to abortion?

2. Why do you think Georgette refers to the women who place their children for adoption as “heroes”?
3. How do you personally view adoption? If you or family member faced an unexpected pregnancy what would be your advice for addressing the pregnancy?

Why?

4. Visit <http://anglican.adoption.com> and <http://episcopal.adoption.com>

5. Read this verse in your Bible: 1 Kings 3:16-28. How does the birth mother’s example speak to us?

What does this passage imply about the courage of the birth mother?

Please pray for birth mothers who have the courage to choose Life for their children and place them with an adoptive family.



Script of Week 4 of DVD Presentation

Main Objective: to explore how the Church and Christians approach unplanned pregnancies and how adoption should be addressed in the Church as a positive option.

Introduction

In last week's discussion we addressed the question of whether abortion was good for women. From the testimonies we saw that many women struggle emotionally, physically, and spiritually and often feel they have no choice but abortion. We also saw the need to present real choices for women and girls facing an unplanned pregnancy. So, in this week's class, we will to explore those choices.

Common Obstacles

But before we get started, I'd like to share with you some common obstacles we have learned about, through the SNM testimonies, which can shed light on why women choose abortion.

Ideal Motherhood

The first lesson that emerged from SNM stories relates to expectations of "ideal motherhood" and their sense of failing to embody cultural stereotypes of motherhood. The women recount messages of others telling them they were not "ready" for motherhood. Furthermore, "Good" or "Right" motherhood and pregnancy occurs when it is planned in certain situations, preferably within marriage. SNM women voiced expectations that indicate women feel intense pressure to conform to standards that few women are able to meet. For those who question unrealistic cultural expectations, when they find themselves in these situations are still controlled by the reality that society, friends and family don't support their pregnancies.

Isolation and loneliness emerged as a second message in the SNM testimonies. Women experience pregnancy alone. SNM stories recount pregnancies outside of ideal circumstances as shameful situations and therefore, not openly discussed. They recount making decisions with little or no support. Women realized they were solely responsible for handling pregnancy and parenting or aborting.

A paradox emerged as the third point from the SNM testimonies: the women simultaneously experienced their pregnancy as both an adult and a teen. They were told to handle their pregnancy as an adult while being told what to do in other areas of their life as often they were still in school or university or in submissive roles, such as in parent-child relationships. Yet, when making pregnancy related decisions, every influence persuades them to handle the situation as adults. SNM stories show that these women are spoken to and treated, not as individuals, but as "people" who should conform to a "role" defined by society.

All three lessons from the SNM testimonies indicate a sense of social pressure felt by the pregnant women to behave in certain ways. Women's stories indicate they feel trapped within the bounds of unrealistic expectations. They are treated and thus behave as though they are both adults and children though the social imperatives remain indistinct. The women's actions show they make decisions to the best of their ability based on these constraints and their personal interpretations of them and their individual life situations. What these themes tell us is that the decision to abort is much more complicated and difficult than is often depicted in stereotypical characterizations.

Attitudes Toward Unplanned Pregnancies and Sex

We also can recognize the role we as individuals and as members of a church have in responding to the news of an unplanned pregnancy. One of the saddest testimonies I've heard was of a girl whose father was the pastor of a small church in Virginia. She said her father made her get an abortion because he was afraid he'd lose his job if people knew his daughter was pregnant.

Remember, pregnancy is not a sin; premarital sexual intimacy is. Yet ask yourself for a moment what evokes a more negative reaction most of the time in families: the knowledge that a teen is sexually active or the knowledge that a teen has become pregnant?

If in one way or another the message is communicated that teen pregnancy will cause more of a problem than teen sex, then we are inadvertently creating an incentive for abortion. After all, if one can abort the pregnancy without the family's knowledge, why endure the trouble that will result by revealing it.

Parents in the home need to clearly communicate that although they have a standard of sexual purity, if a pregnancy occurs, the young person needs to know they can come to you. We, as parents and as the Church, need to make it clear that our goal is to encourage sexual purity, not punish pregnancy. We need to proclaim the Gospel of Life, which offers hope especially to people who make mistakes and are in trouble. It involves an honest acceptance of problems and willingness to offer loving, non-condemning support.

Resources to Breakdown Common Obstacles

We never know when someone who is facing an unplanned pregnancy is going to cross our path. Knowing how to help them consider their choices is easier if you know where a Pregnancy Resource Center is located. You can find contact information for your local pregnancy center by googling "pregnancy center" and your city/state. I suggest not only knowing the name and phone number, but actually go visit the center, learn about their ministry, their needs and maybe how you and your church can partner with them for life!

Keep their number in your wallet. You can also periodically include a blurb in your bulletin about the center's services, it may reach a pregnant woman who needs help.

Pregnancy Resource Centers are Christian-based organizations that offer services for free or at reduced costs. Services typically include pregnancy counselling while some will provide pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease testing, adoption referrals, parenting classes and free baby supplies. The pregnancy resource centers will help the pregnant woman, girl, or couple consider all of their choices. Let's briefly review the choices.

Choices: Marriage

One option is to consider marriage. Is the mother and father of the baby at a place where marriage can be seen as a viable alternative? Marriage may or may not be the right answer but it should be considered and if a couple does choose marriage, it's important to make sure they are connected with an older couple who can mentor them through the first few years of marriage. Because these couples need extra support, mentor couples can be really helpful especially if they have faced a similar experience.

Choices: Parenting

Another option for the pregnant woman to consider is whether she can parent the child. She may want to but is there a support system around her to help her? This is where the church, pregnancy center, and others can really make a difference in whether the woman chooses life or abortion. As noted above there can be many obstacles that make her feel parenting is not a viable option. Where will she live? Can she collect child support? Will she be able to stay in school or keep her job? Most women fear being fired from their job if they become pregnant and don't realize there are pregnancy discrimination laws in place to protect her. If she is in university or college, does

the campus have dorms for parenting students?

If the pregnant girl is still living at home, obviously her parents will also be dealing with pregnancy related concerns. We need to be aware of helping the parents of the pregnant teen, too. There are a number of good books to walk parents through the myriad of issues and a list can be located in the Bibliography found in the back of your work book.

Choices: Adoption

Another option for the mother to consider is choosing to place her child with a family who can adopt him or her and give the child the love and care the mother doesn't feel she is able to provide.

The Experience of Placing a Child for Adoption

To help us really understand what adoption looks like today, here are the stories of a few girls and guys who are familiar with it. (9:15)

Video Clip

I'd like to thank Bethany Christian Services for sharing those stories.

Breaking the Stereotypes about Adoption

Adoption is much different today than it was in years gone by. The mother can go through a public agency or private organization, and she is the person who chooses the parents based on their profiles. Within adoptions, there are three different types, depending on how much contact and openness the birth parents are interested in having before and after placing their baby.

1. First, there is open adoption which allows the birth mother to not only choose the parents she wants for her child. She has the choice of taking an active role in putting together an adoption plan with them. With the prospective adoptive couple, she can decide what, if any, future communication she wants to have with them and her child after the placement and in what form.
2. Semi-open adoptions allow some identifying information to be exchanged with the adoptive parents.
3. Closed adoptions mean no identifying information is exchanged and no contact occurs with the adoptive parents or the child.

Adoption laws vary amongst states and additional links to adoption resources can be found in the bibliography.

When I counsel girls facing unplanned pregnancies about adoption, I'm saddened to see how they respond. Girls view adoption in a negative light. They have actually said they'd rather abort their baby than give it to someone to adopt. They see adoption as abandoning their baby, which means we need to break the stereotypical model of how adoption is viewed.

One way to do that is to honor those mothers and fathers who place their children in adoptive families. As the video showed, they have to work through a season of grief and sadness. Members of the Church can offer words of encouragement, and notes which affirm their choices. Birth mothers are my Heroes: they had the courage to do the right thing for their child!

It is also important to note the adoptive family needs a support system too. Churches can affirm life and send a great message to all when they rally behind families who adopt special needs children, or children in foster care programs, as well as those who participate in international adoptions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I hope the alternatives for handling an unexpected pregnancy that we've discussed today show how we, as the Church, can help pregnant women and make a difference for life. Next week, we will talk about how we can prevent pregnancies among young people and help them make healthy choices.



WEEK 5

Abstinence: The Gospel of Life vs. The Culture of Sex

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 5.
- Bring the Resource Lists and place on back table so participants can take one if they wish.
- Have easel paper ready with **Abstinence: The Gospel of Life vs. The Culture of Sex** on it. Post previous weeks' easel papers.

DURING THE SESSION:

- During **Opening Prayer and Activity**: Lead the participants through the prayer and activities designated for this session.
- Introduce the DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:
"In this session, Georgette talks about preventing pregnancy and abortion through abstinence, how the culture has distorted sex, and why Christians need to uphold the truth on the matter."
- When starting **Group Reflection**, remind people to follow the small group discussion guidelines.
- At **Closing Thoughts and Prayers**, have people place their insights on the easel marked, **Abstinence: The Gospel of Life vs. The Culture of Sex**.
- Remind participants to do **Personal Study and Reflection** in their Handbook.
- Ask a volunteer to bring snack the next week.
- Lead the group through the **Prayer for Life** on the back page of the Handbook.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD and copies of the Resource List.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes. Keep for following week.
- Let the clergy know how the session went.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Give your Prayer Team an update and thank them. Ask them to pray for the next session, **Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Who Controls Death?**, as Christians need to be concerned about other people who are vulnerable to the culture of death.
- Work through the **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Preview the next session on the DVD and in the Handbook.



WEEK 5

Abstinence: The Gospel of Life vs. The Culture of Sex

Opening Prayer

Dear Father, when Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem, the construction site was so sacred, that only blocks dressed at the quarry were used. No hammer, chisel, or iron tool was heard at the construction site.

We who are people of the New Covenant have received the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are not our own, but the temple of the Holy Spirit. May we think on those things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. May we honor You by using our bodies to show forth Your virtues. Amen.

Opening Activity

What did you learn about abortion alternatives this week?
How do you think having sex before marriage affects young people?

WEEK 5 DVD Presentation

In this WEEK Georgette talks about preventing pregnancy and abortion through abstinence and how the culture has distorted sex and why Christians need to uphold the truth on the matter. Warning: this DVD has some graphic video clips. **Please take notes using this outline:**



Culture of Sex

I. Impact of Media's Message

A. Sex without commitment or consequences

According to the Center for Population Options, a typical teen sees about 14,000 sexual encounters through entertainment media in a year's time. Most of the scenarios portray sex outside of marriage and with no consequences ever noted.

B. SSTDs & STIs and their effects on health

AGI Report Teen Sex and Pregnancy

Every year approximately 2.8 million teens acquire a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) which means that each day 8,000 teens contract a sexually transmitted disease

II. The Gospel of Life

A. God's view of sex-Theology of the Body

III. Contraception*

*The World Health Organization lists combined oral estrogen-progestogen contraceptives as a type of drug that can cause cancer. <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol91/mono91.pdf>

TRUE PURITY

- Ephasis on both sexual purity and heart purity
- Address relational and spiritual purity
- Appropriate for adults too
- Authors use real world examples and share personal vignettes

***Please see the bibliography Week 5 for more information about True Purity**

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

- Teaches sons self-control
- Teaches daughters modesty
- Supports adult singles to live chastely
- Gives deeper meaning to the marital embrace

***Please see the bibliography Week 5 for more information about the Theology of the Body**

STD

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

STI

Sexually Transmitted Infections

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health

Healthcare costs for treating STDs are enormous: \$14.7 billion (2006)

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV)*

Causes genital warts and over 99% of cervical cancer cases which kills more than 5,000 women every year.

33% of all women may be infected with HPV.

24 million Americans are infected with HPV.

***Condoms offer zero protection against HPV.**

Editor's Notes:

On the DVD, during the discussion about sexually transmitted diseases, Georgette states: "condoms offer zero protection against many of the strains." She should have said: "Condoms offer incomplete protection at best" (Page 60 of the Script).

And during the discussion about contraception, Georgette states: "according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 54% of women in the US who are taking birth control pills become pregnant annually because they are not taken regularly." She should have said: "According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 54% of women seeking abortions used some kind of contraception, even if imperfectly, in the month in which conception occurred." (Page 62 of the script).

GROUP

Reflection

1. What did you learn about the nature of the body when the DVD was discussing the Theology of the Body?
2. Why is it hard for parents to talk to their teens about sex? How should church youth groups address God's view of sex and the value of abstinence?
3. Why do you think young people turn to sex?
4. Do you think it's realistic for people to abstain from sex outside of marriage? Why or why not?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20. What does it mean to be a temple of the Holy Spirit? How can Scripture inspire us to see our bodies as holy temples? What does verse 18 imply about God's view of sex? How do you think the Bible defines sexual immorality?

In a two-year study of more than 13,000 middle and high school girls,

- Only four percent of them who abstained from drugs, drinking and sex were depressed
- 44% of girls with multiple sexual partners experienced depression during the study.

Bible verse:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share their thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— Prayer for Life —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.
Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.
Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.
Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.
Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.
Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.
I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

For Further Personal Study & Reflection:

WEEK 5

Abstinence

Participant Guide Pg. PG-31

1. Review the handouts from your Leader. How do you think the concept of abstinence (or self-control) applies through-out the span of life?

2. Visit *Teenwire.org* and read what Planned Parenthood is telling 12 to 20 year olds. What do you think about their teaching?

Visit *Standupgirl.com*, what do they promote? What is the contrast between the two sites?

3. As you go through the week, think about the books you read or the shows you watch. What messages are they giving about sex?

4. As a member of Christ's body, how can you help young people understand how to view their bodies and live out a commitment to chastity before marriage?

If you are a parent, what is your plan for teaching your children about this?

5. Reread 1 Corinthians 6: 18-20 in your Bible:. How do you think you may need to grow in honoring your own body as a temple of the Holy Spirit?

Do you agree with the saying?

When it comes to sex,
girls give sex to get love,
guys give love to get sex.

Script of Week 5 of DVD Presentation

Main Objective: Contrast the messages promoted by the Culture of Sex with the Gospel of Life; understand that the consequences of sexual activity outside of marriage include disease, heartache, and abortion; identify ways to thwart our sexualized society

Introduction

Last week's discussion focused on options other than abortion for women dealing with unexpected pregnancies such as adoption and parenting. We also learned about some of the obstacles women face related to pregnancy and motherhood.

Our conversation today backs up a bit, as we consider the idea of protecting life by preventing pregnancy and thereby preventing abortion.

The Culture of Sex

Preventing pregnancy occurs one of two ways; either through abstaining from sex or using some sort of contraceptive method such as birth control pills to prevent conception.

As we all know, the sexual revolution that began in the 60's has led to us being the most sexualized culture in the history of mankind. This fact alone makes it extremely hard to embrace abstinence and uphold a model of sexual purity.

Starting as young as eight years old, many children are being exposed to commercials and marketing that use sex to sell products. Embedded in these sexualized images are harmful messages that equate personal value with sexual appeal and portray sex as a consequence free activity. Movies, music, TV programs, video games, and even toys marketed to young people are filled with degrading images that objectify and sexualize girls and woman. Boys are also affected as sex is presented in the context of harmful stereotypes, often linked with power and violence.

Our youngsters are internalizing sexualized images and processing sexualized behavior long before they are able to understand what it even means. A quick search on the internet finds multiple articles reporting that in today's society, the average age children see their first pornographic image by accident online or on a smart phone is age eight.

Pornography and the various types of media are available everywhere in our culture, depicting sex as cool and consequence free. Sex is portrayed as a simple activity that is free of any physical, emotional or spiritual consequences. Sexual freedom has become the ultimate symbol of enlightenment and sophistication, but wisdom and experience teaches us that this simply isn't true. Broken hearts, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, infections, and embarrassment are just some of the consequences of sexual intimacy outside of marriage.

Becoming sexually active is seen a sign of maturity for many young people. For many girls, it is a way to get attention, recognition, and love. For young guys, sex affirms their manhood and ego. What's the old saying? Girls give sex to get love and guys give love to get sex. Sadly, it's still true today. The ironic side to this exchange is that it leads to girls breaking guys' hearts, guys breaking girls' hearts and broken hearts become hardened hearts.

What is the impact of the media's message of "sex without consequences"?

In addition to unplanned pregnancies, what is the impact of the Media's message of "sex without consequences?"

We have seen an increase in sexually transmitted diseases and infections. Let's consider the following facts:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- The U.S. has the highest rate of STD in the industrialized world.
- New estimates show that there are about 20 million new sexually transmitted infections in the United States each year. 90 million people have existing infections. Half of all STIs occur in people 25 years of age or younger with one in four new STI occurring in teenagers.
- Young people, age 15-24 have five times the reported rate of chlamydia of the total population, four times the rate of gonorrhea and three times the rate of syphilis.
- Human Papillomavirus accounts for the majority of prevalent STIs in the U.S. and condoms offer zero protection against many of the strains.
- 46% of American high school students have had sexual intercourse and potentially are at risk for HIV infection, other STDs.
- In 2006, an estimated 5,259 young people aged 13-24 were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Less than half of adults ages 18 to 44 have ever been tested for an STD other than HIV/AIDS.
- Direct medical costs associated with STIs in the United States are estimated at \$14.7 billion annually in 2006 dollars. More than \$8 billion is spent each year to diagnose and treat STIs and their complications, not including HIV.

Estimating how many sexually transmitted infection (STI) cases occur is not a simple or straightforward task. First, most STIs can be "silent," causing no noticeable symptoms. These asymptomatic infections can be diagnosed only through testing. Unfortunately, routine screening programs are not widespread, and social stigma and lack of public awareness concerning STIs often inhibits frank discussion between health care providers and patients about the risks and the need for testing. Even from estimates, however, what is clear from the statistics about STIs in the U.S. is that young people bear a large portion of the infections burden.

Preventing Sexually Transmitted Infections and diseases is the first step to reducing them and reversing their soaring rates, but prevention must focus on an individual's sexual behavior.

Again we ask, what is the impact of the Media's message of "sex without consequences?"

Clearly, we see an increase of health problems, but what about their well-being, is sex affirming for their self-esteem?

Technology to Promote Sex

Teens become sexually active for a variety of reasons but did you know that 61% of sexually active teen relationships end within three months, and 80% end within six months?

In a two-year study of more than 13,000 middle and high school girls, only four percent of them who abstained from drugs, drinking and sex were depressed. However, 44% of girls with multiple sexual partners experienced depression during the study.

Internet Pornography Addiction is also a huge problem now for both guys and girls of all ages. The virtual world of avatar alter egos allows guys and girls to experience sexual encounters minus any consequences and removes all inhibitions.

Social media networks like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Tumbler – are becoming X-rated as teens post pictures of themselves in a variety of compromising positions, sexual activities, drunken states, and partying without realizing that colleges, potential employers, as well as family and friends are all able to see this less than stellar behavior. These networks also create the opportunity to develop relationships with total strangers online.

Another growing problem to hit the tech world is sexting – sending sexually explicit photos via text message to anyone. A “sexting” incident was uncovered at a high school in Pennsylvania. According to court documents, the investigation concluded that two teenage suspects had solicited images from three juveniles, including elementary and middle school students. The messages were then sent to other students. Sadly none of the young men involved realized sending these messages would put them on the sexual predator list, but it did.

The Gospel of Life

So it is into this sexually saturated environment that we seek to prevent pregnancy and all the life-size consequences associated with the sexual revolution. Based on the fact that there is no such thing as safe sex, we have to help people understand that sexual abstinence and purity are the only effective ways to prevent pregnancy, disease, addiction, broken hearts, and destructive behavior. Simply telling them to say no to sex doesn't work either.

In order for people, young and old, to make good choices about life and sex, we as the Church need to help them understand and embrace who they are in Christ.

In recent years, a variety of great authors and teachers have written helpful books that we as parents can use to help teens, family members and friends make life-affirming choices that express the gift of sexuality throughout life in a true, excellent, honest and pure way that is about more than not having sex!

Bestselling authors Hayley and Michael DiMarco, explain in their book *True Purity: More Than Just Saying “No” to You-Know-What* that purity is far more than abstinence from sex or other sexual activities. It's not about rules. It's not a list of don'ts. It's not about scare tactics, teen pregnancy statistics, or warnings about STDs. And it's not ruined the moment we mess up. It goes way deeper than that.

In their honest, down-to-earth style that teens trust, Hayley and Michael explain that purity starts in the heart and involves every thought, desire, and action--not just sex. They show that purity isn't just for the super spiritual, but that it is a daily choice that every person must make. And most importantly, they show teens and adults that it's never too late to become pure and that lost purity can be redeemed through God's grace.

A whole personhood perspective must be taught so they will be equipped to not only say no to sex until marriage but also to understand the blessing of sexual intimacy in marriage!

Theology of the Body as a Model

There are also a variety of programs that can be used by Church Youth Leaders to help young people and single adults abstain from sexual activity, while drawing them into a deeper, closer relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One program AFL strongly recommends is called *Theology of the Body*. It is based on 129 teachings presented by Pope John Paul II from 1979 to 1984.

The Theology of the Body helps us learn to receive God's love so we can give and receive it with others in our lives. Instead of seeing the body as bad and shameful, and treating our sexual desires like they should be repressed or ignored, the Theology of the Body reveals that our body and its desires actually point us to the meaning of life! It teaches that our bodies are holy and good. It doesn't dwell on the consequences of impurity but shows the deeply satisfying freedom that comes from a pure heart. These teachings explain the beauty and purpose of our sexuality and why it is such a major part of our ability to love and receive love and reveals how God's view of love is everything that the human heart longs for – but it doesn't stop there. It also explains that as we learn to receive this kind of love we must also learn how to give it away in a healthy way.

Using over a thousand Scripture references, Pope John Paul's Theology of the Body casts a vision of how man, woman, love, and sexual intimacy were originally designed to give us a glimpse into the depth of God's love for each of us. Connecting with Jesus to tap into the power of that love provides the help and strength to live it out.

These teachings draw people of all ages deeper into their faith, empowering them to grow into the men and

women we were created to be.

As a side note, I want to mention that the late Alan Medinger from Regeneration Ministry sees Theology of the Body as a critical tool in restoring sexual brokenness as well as effectively empowering people to choose sexual purity until marriage.

Youth ministries have a unique opportunity to help teenagers maneuver through the sexualized culture they live in. And studies show that teens who are involved in their church and have some level of faith are less likely to be sexually active. Kids need to be engaged in group activities! Parents and the Church need to work together to help teens navigate safely through all the temptations of this world. In addition to leading young ones to Christ, maybe your church can teach Theology of the Body or do a group using True Purity.

Contraception

While it is obvious how sexual abstinence works to prevent pregnancy, let's now look at contraception and its effectiveness.

Oral contraceptives often called birth control pills are the most common type of contraception. They are a synthetic form of the hormones progesterone and estrogen. Synthetic hormones are another name for steroids, similar to the ones we have banned in competitive sports. The World Health Organization lists them as a type of drug that can cause cancer.

Birth control pills work to prevent pregnancy normally by stopping ovulation. If no egg is released, there is nothing for the sperm to fertilize, and the woman will not get pregnant. However if the pill isn't taken regularly, ovulation can occur, and an egg can then be fertilized, creating an embryo. But the pill has a secondary effect on the lining of the uterus, it makes it difficult for the embryo to attach and grow. Therefore, the fertilized egg is rejected, dies and is expelled which is why many consider the pill to be an abortifacient. By-the-way, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 54% of women in the US who are taking birth control pills become pregnant annually because they are not taken regularly, or it wasn't a strong enough dose or the pill interacted with antibiotics rendering it useless.

And, the pill does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases or infections.

A chemical free type of contraception is called Natural Family Planning – it is safe and an effective means of preventing pregnancy. NFP uses the natural increase and decrease in fertility built into a woman's menstrual cycle to increase or decrease the possibility of conception. There are several different modern effective methods of NFP. Each identifies the most fertile time in a woman's cycle and requires the couple to abstain from sexual intercourse during that time if they wish to avoid conception. It is extremely easy to understand and there are many websites that explain it in detail. But as noted with the pill, NFP is not 100% effective either. I think God wants to remind us He is the creator of life regardless of how we try to prevent it or plan it!

Conclusion

This concludes our discussion on preventing pregnancy, using two very different approaches; Sexual abstinence and contraception. Next time, we will look at the other side of the life spectrum - end of life issues including euthanasia and assisted suicide.



WEEK 6

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Who Controls Death?

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 6.
- Bring your Resource Lists and place on back table so participants can take one if they wish.
- Have easel paper ready with ***Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Who Controls Death?*** on it. Post previous weeks' easel papers.

DURING THE SESSION:

- Welcome the group and distribute the Handbooks.
- During **Opening Prayer and Activity**: Lead the participants through the prayer and activities designated for this session.
- Introduce the DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:

"In this presentation, Georgette explains how euthanasia and assisted suicide erode the value of human life and why we should pay attention to how health care decisions are made and ensure that such decisions are made properly on our behalf, if need be."
- When starting **Group Reflection**, remind people to follow the small group discussion guidelines.
- At **Closing Thoughts and Prayers**, have people place their insights on the easel marked, ***Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Who Controls Death?***
- Remind participants to do **Personal Study and Reflection** in their Handbook.
- Ask a volunteer to bring snack the next week.
- Lead the group through the **Prayer for Life** on the back page of the Handbook.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD and copies of the Resource List.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes. Keep for following week.
- Let the clergy know how the session went.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Thank and update your Prayer Team. Ask their prayers for the next session, ***Biotechnology/Cloning: The Future is Now*** as this is a complex subject that nonetheless needs our attention.
- Work through the **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Preview the next session on the DVD and in the Handbook.



WEEK 6 Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Who Controls Death?

Opening Prayer

Father God, the wondrous gift of human life comes from You. Help us to honor and protect the lives of those who suffer from old age, terminal illness, disability, or are in pain. Help us understand that You alone number our days and control life and death. Help us to use what we learn today to protect our loved ones from premature death.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Opening Activity

In our sex-saturated culture, how is the pressure to “be sexy” felt?
How do most people in our society measure the value of a human life?

WEEK 6 DVD Presentation

In this presentation, you will learn how euthanasia and assisted suicide further erode the valuing of human life in our society. Additionally, Georgette will discuss why we should pay attention to how health care decisions are made. Finally she will present principles that can help ensure that health care decisions are made properly on behalf of our loved ones and ourselves. **Please take notes using this outline:**

I. What is Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide?

A. Rationale for euthanasia

B. Argument against Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide



C. Where is it legal?

D. Duty to Die?

To help you stay informed about Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia, Anglicans FOR LIFE maintains a comprehensive Bibliography of up-to-date articles. Visit: <http://anglicansforlife.org/end-of-life-bibliography/> regularly to see the most recent postings.

II. Futile Medical Care Theory

A. Who gets to decide?

B. Futile care and assisted suicide

C. Remarks of the “distinguished” Baroness Warnock:



Euthanasia

Definition:

any act or omission that is done with the intent of bringing about someone's death.

Assisted Suicide

Definition:

when one person is directly and intentionally involved with ending the life of another person or to aid, encourage or counsel for suicide.

Futile Medical Care

Definition:

Refers to the belief that in cases where there is no hope for improvement, no course of treatment is taken.

Palliative Care

Definition:

Focuses on the pain, symptoms, and stress of a serious illness, chronic pain and the terminally ill.

Hospice

Definition:

Helps the patient and family with variety of services, in-home or at hospice center; focusing on enhancing the quality of remaining life in the last stages of a terminal illness.

III. Tactics of the Right-To-Die Movement & Pro-Aborts

A. 3 similarities?

IV. Dying With Grace

A. End of Life Terms

B. Stealth Euthanasia

C. Careful consideration of long-term consequences of medical treatments

D. The importance of having a “Protective Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care”

Reality Checking

	1998-2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTALS
Assisted Suicide Deaths in Oregon	596	85	71	105*	859
Prescriptions Written in Oregon	935	116	122	155	1,328
Assisted Suicide Deaths in Washington	250	116	159	126	651
Prescriptions Filled in Washington	255	121	173	176	725

The Exit suicide clinic in Switzerland reported that there were 583 assisted suicide deaths in 2014, a 27% increase from the 459 deaths in 2013. Exit claimed that the spike in numbers was due to a greater media interest in euthanasia, an aging population and a rise in cases of dementia.

Last May, Exit extended assisted suicide to elderly healthy people who are living with physical or psychological pain. This decision would have led to an increase in deaths.

In February 2014, Oriella Cazzanello, an 85 year-old healthy woman died at a Swiss suicide clinic. The letter she sent her family stated that she was unhappy about how she looked.

In April 2013, Pietro D'Amico, a 62-year-old magistrate from Calabria in southern Italy, died by assisted suicide at a suicide clinic in Basel Switzerland after receiving a wrong diagnosis.

A 2014 Swiss study found that people who died at Swiss suicide clinics had no underlying illness in 16% of the cases.

It appears that euthanasia and assisted suicide are becoming normalized in countries where it is legal. Recent statistics indicate that euthanasia increased by 27% in 2013 in Belgium and 15% in 2013 in the Netherlands.

*Assisted suicide increased by 44% in 2014 in Oregon and 43% in 2013 in Washington State.

Make sure you and all your family members over the age of 18 and anyone you care about have a Protective Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, which names a trusted person to make health care decisions in the event the signer is temporarily or permanently unable to make such decisions. Living Wills are not recommended types of Advanced Directives, as they can give an attending physician, unfamiliar with your wishes, the power and authority to interpret your directives in a manner not necessarily intended by you.

It's easy to ORDER your....



GROUP Reflection

- 1. How does the “right to die” become the “duty to die”?**
- 2. How have you seen the “right to die” portrayed in the news media and entertainment industry?**
- 3. How can we be a support to people who are disabled?
How can we support people who are dying?**
- 4. Read Proverbs 16:25, Romans 8:6-7, and Isaiah 28:15.
What do these verses tell us about God’s view of the ending of human life?
Read Psalm 139:16. What is God’s role in the beginning and end of each human life?**

Bible verses:

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Romans 8:6-7 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace, because the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.

Isaiah 28:15 You boast, ‘We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place.’

Psalm 139:16 All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.



Editor’s Notes:

Since we finished producing Project Life, our neighbor to the north, Canada, has had a Supreme Court Decision that basically lifted their ban on Assisted Suicide. Parliament legalized Medical Aid in Dying in June 2016.

Legislation goes into effect September 2015, in Texas, that prevents artificially administered nutrition, hydration, or life-sustaining treatment from being removed from a patient by a hospital.

Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share their thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— Prayer for Life —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.
Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives
of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life
according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

For Further Personal Study & Reflection:

1. Review the handouts from your Leader.
Also, check out www.euthanasia.com, and www.wesleyjsmith.com/blog
What does each site say about end of life issues?
2. Check out www.joniandfriends.org
Also visit <http://notdeadyetnewscommentary.blogspot.com>.
What does each of these sites tell you about the disabled?
3. What does being independent mean to you?
How do you view people who are dependent upon others?
4. How has this subject affected your own life? How can you
prepare for family member's future end-of-life health care needs?
5. Read Psalm 139: 1-16 in your Bible: What does this passage say
about human life?
Read Micah 6:6-8. What does this passage say that God requires
of His people? What does this mean in your own life?



Embrace the Journey

8-week curriculum that explains
Aging & Dying issues.

Order online—
AnglicansforLife.org

Script of Week 6 of DVD Presentation

Main Objective: To demonstrate how euthanasia and assisted suicide, along with futile care theory, further erode the culture's respect for Life on the other side of the life spectrum.

Introduction

For the last few weeks, we have been talking about abortion, unplanned pregnancies, and the related issue of sex. Today, we turn our attention to the other end of the life spectrum, hastening death of the elderly, disabled and terminally ill by euthanasia and assisted suicide. We see that the same moral decay that justifies taking a life "formed in the womb" now threatens life outside the womb.

We must remember: God is the creator. We can believe and trust what David proclaims in Psalm 139, verse 16: "Your eyes saw my unformed body; All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." In other words, God determines the day when our life begins, and only He determines when it should end.

Sadly Satan is always lurking, seeking to steal, kill, and destroy as the world buys into his lies and embraces Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide while justifying it based on a 'right to die' and a concern for 'quality of life.'

What are Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide?

But before we get too far along in this discussion, I've asked Dr. Burke Balch from the Powell Center for Medical Ethics to explain what euthanasia and assisted suicide are. (2:20)

Video clip

Thanks Burke and Barbara.

Medical advancements, a plethora of medications, and preventative care now allow people to live longer with a variety of illnesses. In fact, the fastest growing demographic in America today are people over the age of 65. Currently, there are almost 40 million people 65 years and older, with 5.5 million over the age of 85. While there are people in this age group as well as younger ones living with difficult diseases and terminal illnesses, a small but vocal number of individuals believe their illness justifies challenging existing state laws that prevent someone from helping them commit suicide.

The result is legislation being passed via judicial decision making. Recent cases in New Mexico and Montana have allowed the court to declare that physicians who provide a prescription for Assisted Suicide via lethal medication would not be subject to criminal prosecution under existing laws.

Currently 3 states: Oregon, Washington and Vermont have also passed legislation legalizing Assisted Suicide.

Arguments Against Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide

Now one of main reasons we must oppose Assisted Suicide, is that there is a great deal of opportunity for abuse and misappropriation of the lethal prescriptions used to cause death. Over the last 14 years in Oregon and Washington, 923 people have died via assisted suicide, while 1,424 prescriptions have been filled. This means there are 501 prescriptions that have been filled but never used. What happened to that lethal medication? Was it used to intentionally hasten someone else's death?

In 2013, Belgium passed a law allowing euthanasia for children and since 2005, pharmacies there have been selling "euthanasia kits" with all the necessary materials to kill a person while, Switzerland has created a new industry, known as "suicide tourism." Non-profit organizations like Dignitas, assists foreigners who want to die. They fly to Zurich where a clinic takes care of everything from supplying the drugs to disposing of the body.

And Great Britain's Director of Public Prosecutions recently announced that doctors and nurses who assist in sui-

cides will be less likely to be prosecuted if they are not directly involved in a patient's care. This new prosecutorial directive basically decriminalized doctor-assisted suicide "at a stroke of [a] pen," without Parliaments input.

Quebec, Canada passed a new Bill that allows - "Medical Aid in Dying," challenging their Criminal Code that prevents Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia.

Duty to Die?

As support for the right to die grows worldwide, where will this approval of death lead?

To help answer this question I've asked our friends at the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition based in Ontario to share their own experiences. (5:22)

Video Clip

The comments may seem extreme but are they? Is legalized assisted suicide opening the door for the right to die to morph into a duty to die?

Futile Medical Care

Many believe that is where we are heading as hospitals address the issue of rising medical costs, patients living longer, limited supply of doctors, and concern for what is being called health care rationing. Hospitals are now adopting futile medical care policies, which allows the doctor and hospital to withhold treatment based on their belief that it is futile, or useless.

One such case in Texas was reported by Wesley Smith in 2012, Zach McDaniel A 12-year-old boy was shot in the head and rushed to emergency surgery, placed in a drug-induced coma, and transferred to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth on a ventilator. Upon transfer, Cook Children's staff claimed that Zach's prognosis was poor, and that part of his brain had been removed during surgery. They pressured Zach's parents to sign an organ donation consent form. However, a brain scan revealed that Zach's brain was intact. A week later, the hospital convened an ethics committee that under Texas law has the power to terminate a patient's care after 10 days. It was the committee's opinion that any further care for Zach would be futile, and they moved to terminate care. Zach's parents pleaded for the hospital to give him time to recover and fortunately because of a procedural mistake, the committee ruling didn't stand.

Three days after that, Zach was able to breathe on his own. Yet, on that same day, Zach's doctor secretly withdrew Zach's food and water, and added a "Do Not Resuscitate" order to his chart without his parent's knowledge or consent. When Zach's mother, Jessica, discovered the DNR and realized that her son wasn't receiving food and water, she was alarmed and called Texas Right to Life for help.

With their help, Zach was moved to the Children's Medical Center in Dallas, where doctors said that Zach had a survivable injury. Doctors there slowly weaned Zach off the sedatives in order to bring him out of his drug-induced coma. Now, Zach is fully conscious, talking, and receiving physical therapy. His doctors expect him to make a full physical recovery, with the only lasting damage being weakened vision in his left eye.

Barbara Wagner's case is another example from the US of how assisted suicide and futile medical care came together in Oregon. Barbara Wagner, was a 64-year-old bus driver who found out her cancer, which had been in remission for two years, had returned. Her doctor gave her a prescription for chemotherapy to slow the cancer's growth. She assumed her health insurance through the Oregon Health Plan would cover the medicine. Barbara was notified by letter that the Oregon Health Plan wouldn't cover her prescription, but it would cover assisted suicide. The plan acknowledged it routinely sends out similar letters to patients who have little chance of surviving more than five years. They deemed the chemotherapy futile while offering her aid in dying.

The "distinguished" Baroness Warnock, who according to the Daily Telegraph newspaper is one of Britain's leading moral philosophers, says elderly people who suffer from dementia are "wasting people's lives"—that is, the lives of those who care for them—and ought to choose to die even if they're not suffering. And even if their family does not consider them a burden, they ought to "off" themselves anyway, as she puts it, because they are a burden on the public, which, under the British national health care plan, pays for their treatment. According to a Daily Telegraph, article, Warnock hopes people will soon be "licensed to put others down." Warnock's views are an

illustration that while euthanasia and Assisted Suicide are promoted as a right to choose, it quickly becomes an obligation to die.

This tale out of England sounds a warning for countries with a national health care program. There is never enough money to go around—and someone may need to start making decisions concerning who gets to live and who needs to die. If those targeted for death don't go willingly, well, they may be encouraged to die.

Tactics of those who Advocate Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and Futile Care

As I have become familiar with Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide and Futile Medical Care, I see similarities between the tactics used by Euthanasia advocates and the pro-abortion proponents.

- They bring in the religious component by having a pastor quote Scripture out of context as a means of making death by euthanasia/assisted suicide Biblically acceptable.
- They use verbal gymnastics to soften the concept of legalized killing. Freedom of choice at the end of life, aid in dying, physician aid in dying, and my favorite – death with dignity.
- They use names for their organizations that sound compassionate, innocuous, and reasonable: Compassion and Choice, Final Exit Network, Compassion in Dying, End of Life Choices, and Dying with Dignity.

The Final Exit Network has been in the news recently as the FBI in Baltimore arrested 4 of their members for helping about 200 people kill themselves throughout the United States.

The other similarity between abortion and euthanasia is the issue of suffering and inconvenience. We can't imagine forcing a woman to go through with an unwanted pregnancy; likewise, we can't imagine letting our loved one live in pain, discomfort, and hopelessness. But we need to ask - Is killing an acceptable answer to human suffering?

The Gospel of Life Approach

What should our response be towards those we love who are struggling with suffering? Is there such a thing as dying with grace? Anglicans for Life believes we must neither seek every medical treatment available to stay alive at all costs, nor accelerate death by imposing our will. Death needs to be natural, in God's time.

We must help those who are suffering find relief without resorting to death. Identifying their real needs will allow us to provide effective help. Folks suffering from depression, pain and isolation don't need be euthanatized. They need pain medicine, community, and counseling. People suffering need an advocate who will help them identify resources, support systems, and be their voice when they can't do it alone.

Many of us have had to face these issues firsthand or will in the future. How do we ensure those we love will be properly cared for?

Policies, laws, and blanket statements can't be employed in these circumstances; we must seek God's guidance for each patient, in each situation ensuring their dignity and humanity are honored at every stage of life, including death. To help people prepare for these difficult decisions, Anglicans for Life has produced Embrace the Journey, which is a program like Project Life that focuses solely on preparing for aging and dying, for ourselves and our loved ones. I strongly encourage you to consider participating in that program next season.

End of Life Terms

Finally there are a few terms that we should become familiar with and recognize how they are often interchanged by those in the medical community.

First, Palliative care is defined as "relief of the pain, symptoms and stress from serious illness, disease or disorder." Palliative care is for people of any age, and at any stage in an illness, whether that illness is curable, chronic or life-threatening.

Comfort Care is a phrase most often used in a hospital. At some point, the doctor may come in and talk to the patient or family member about putting the patient on comfort care. What they're saying is... at this point there is

nothing else they can do to cure your loved one's disease or illness but they can keep them comfortable and help them have a natural death. It may mean the medical treatments they have been using are artificially preventing death and have become too burdensome for the patient and now the focus should be on relieving the suffering and keeping the patient comfortable.

An important word of caution must be noted here as it relates to a common problem experienced by many people when a family member is assigned a "Comfort Care."

Sometimes a patient can be over-medicated while in Comfort Care, which is when medications used to manage pain - opiates, sedatives, and barbiturates - are misused to speed up or hasten death. A Declaration on Assisted Dying authored at the 13th International Conference of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies in 2000 describes their justification for over-medicating; quote "On this occasion, we wish to draw public attention to the practice of "terminal sedation" or "slow Euthanasia" which is performed extensively today throughout the world in hospitals, nursing homes, Hospices, and in private homes. This is carried out under the doctrine known as "double effect" by which a physician may lawfully administer increasing dosages of regular analgesic and sedative drugs that can hasten someone's death as long as the declared intention is to ease pain and suffering. Of course, the key word is "intention". Compassionate physicians, without publicly declaring the true intention of their actions, often speed up the dying process in this way. Many thousands of terminally-ill patients are so helped globally every year."

Their double-effect doctrine is discussed in-depth in an article titled "Stealth Euthanasia," we have included in your workbook for further information.

For our purpose, it is important to recognize it can happen, but we can prevent a loved one from becoming a victim of it by working with the medical staff to identify the lowest dose of sedation that prevents discomfort but doesn't cause a semi-comatose state. Putting a dying patient into an unconscious state deprives them of being present at the end of their life and can deny family members precious time to say final goodbyes. Also, Palliative Care should not include removal of food or fluids; they should only be discontinued when death is imminent and the patient is choosing not to eat or drink.

The last term relates to something known as Advanced Directives – Living Wills are the most common type. We discourage using living wills because the hospital's attending physician is given power and authority to interpret your living will directives in a manner that may not have been intended by you. Anglicans for Life strongly urges you to instead make sure you and all your family members over the age of 18 have a Power of Attorney for Health Care.

This document names a trusted person to make health care decisions in the event you as the signer is temporarily or permanently unable to make such decisions. You can purchase the Protective Medical Decisions Document from the Patient's Rights Council for a donation of \$15. www.patientsrightscouncil.org 740-282-3810

Conclusion

Anglicans for Life encourages churches to be aware of these issues and to develop ministries and outreach to families who are facing these challenges.

As we said at the beginning, God is the creator of life, and our times are in His hands. We must not let Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, or Futile Care preempt His plans, especially as medicine and science push ethical boundaries. Next week, we will discuss how stem cell research and cloning advance those boundaries even further.

Thank you.

8 REASONS to OPPOSE the LEGALIZATION of ASSISTED SUICIDE!

Assisted suicide is bad medicine -a prescription for abuse!

So-called safeguards are hollow.

If assisted suicide is legalized, some people's lives will be ended without their consent, through mistakes and abuse. No safeguards have ever been enacted or proposed that can prevent this outcome, which can never be undone.

The dangers of legalized assisted suicide are many:

1. **Deadly mix:** Assisted suicide is a deadly mix with our profit-driven health care system. At \$300, assisted suicide will be the cheapest treatment. Assisted suicide saves insurance companies large sums of money.
2. **Abuse:** The abuse of people with disabilities, and elder abuse, are rising. An heir or abusive caregiver may steer someone towards assisted suicide, witness the request, pick up the lethal dose, and even give the drug. No witnesses are required at the death, so who would know?
3. **Mistakes:** Diagnoses of terminal illness are too often wrong, leading people to give up on treatment and lose good years of their lives.
4. **Carelessness:** No psychological evaluation is required. People with a history of depression and suicide attempts have received the lethal drugs rather than lifesaving treatment.
5. **Burden:** Financial and emotional pressures can also make people choose death.
6. **Unnecessary:** Everyone already has the right to refuse treatment and get full palliative care, including, if dying in pain, pain-relieving palliative sedation .
7. **No true safeguards:** The safeguards are hollow, with no enforcement or investigation authority.
8. **Quality of life underrated:** Society often underrates the quality of life for people with disabilities. Will doctors and nurses fully explore patients' concerns and fight for their full lives? Will vulnerable people be given suicide prevention or suicide assistance?

Many disability organizations and medical groups oppose legalization. As the American Medical Association warns, "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks."

Produced by Minnesota Citizens Concerns for Life www.MCCL.org



SESSION 7

Biotechnology/Cloning: The Future is Now

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 7.
- Bring the Resource Lists and place on back table so participants can take one if they wish.
- Have easel paper ready with **Biotechnology/Cloning: The Future is Now** on it. Post previous weeks' easel papers.

DURING THE SESSION:

- During **Opening Prayer and Activity**: Lead the participants through the prayer and activities designated for this session.
- Introduce the DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:
"Today, Georgette gives an overview of how developments in biotechnology are presenting new challenges to the sanctity of human life."
- When starting **Group Reflection**, remind people to follow the small group discussion guidelines.
- At **Closing Thoughts and Prayers**, have people place their insights on the easel marked, **Biotechnology/Cloning: The Future is Now**.
- Remind participants to do **Personal Study and Reflection** in their Handbook.
- REMIND PEOPLE TO BRING THEIR CALENDARS NEXT WEEK FOR THE PLANNING TIME!**
- Ask a volunteer to bring snack the next week.
- Lead the group through the **Prayer for Life** on the back page of the Handbook.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD and copies of the Resource List.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes. Keep for following week.
- Let the clergy know how the session went.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Thank and update your Prayer Team. Ask them to pray for the next and final session **Creating an Action Plan**, that the group will be led by the Spirit in their planning.
- Work through the **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Make sure you get a copy of the church's calendar, so that you will have it on hand for Session 8. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR PERSONAL CALENDAR TOO!**
- Preview the next session on the DVD and in the Handbook.
- Make copies of the PROJECT LIFE Participant Evaluation form** (found on pages 94 and 95)



WEEK 7 Biotechnology and Cloning: The Future is Now

Opening Prayer

*L*ord, You are God. You have made us in Your image and by Your hand. We are Your people and the sheep of Your pasture. Every living soul belongs to You, and we are all the work of Your hand. Help us understand what those who see life as a commodity seek to do with it in the future so we can be better prepared to protect life. We praise You for the gift of life. Amen.

Opening Activity

How did last week's lesson deepen your thinking on life issues?
Does the whole concept of biotechnology and cloning sound intimidating and cause you to tune out?

WEEK 7 DVD Presentation

Today Georgette gives an overview of how developments in biotechnology are presenting new challenges to the sacredness of human life.

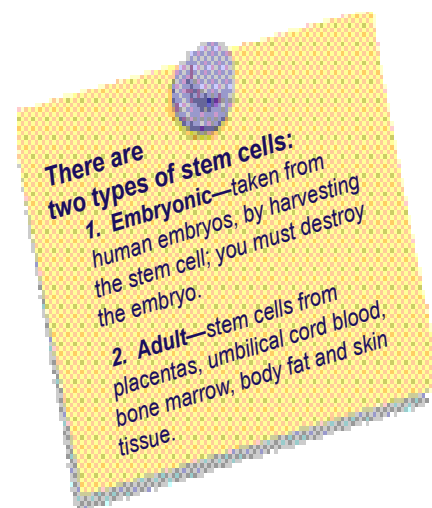
Please take notes, using this outline:

Stem Cell Research & Cloning

I. Embryonic vs. adult stem cells

II. Human Cloning

A. Therapeutic vs. Reproductive



III. Ethical issues for stem cell research and cloning

A. Myths vs. facts

B. Egg procurement

IV. The rise of reproductive technology

A. IVF issues

B. Prenatal fetal testing

V. Christian response



Cloning

Definition:

The creation of an embryo using a donated woman's egg that has the nucleus removed. The person seeking to be cloned has their DNA inserted into the egg and it is stimulated to grow. The cloned embryo has 46 chromosomes and its own genetic code (DNA). At this point, the embryo can be either implanted in a womb or birthed—this is Reproductive Cloning. Or it can be destroyed by removing its stem cells—Therapeutic Cloning.

newsbrief

Cloning & Health Risks to Women

An enormous supply of human eggs will be needed to create even a few cloned human embryos. The most optimistic estimates are that it will require at least 50-100 human eggs to produce one cloned embryo. A simple calculation reveals that treating just one patient group, the 17 million diabetes patients in the US, will require at least 850 million to 1.7 billion human eggs.

Approximately 85 million women of childbearing age would have to "donate" eggs. This will subject a large number of women to health risks due to high hormone doses and surgery they will undergo. The result will be that human eggs will become a commodity and disadvantaged women will be exploited on a global scale.

STEM CELL SCOREBOARD

Adult Stem Cell Treatments	Embryonic Stem Cell Treatments
65	00

GROUP Reflection

1. How have advances in medical research benefited us?

2. Do you think the media is doing an adequate job of reporting on advances in stem cell research?

Do the potential cures for diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's validate the destruction of human embryos?

3. How do we encourage responsible use of technology and biotechnology in particular?

Should we harvest organs from death row prisoners because they are going to die anyway? Should IVF be regulated so "extra" embryos aren't created? How should we make these decisions?

4. Read Isaiah 40:12-14, Proverbs 14:33, and Proverbs 17:24. Why is wisdom important in the life of a Christian and how does a Christian obtain wisdom?

How can wisdom help us in dealing with these issues?

Bible verses:

Proverbs 14:33 Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known.

Proverbs 17:24 A discerning man keeps wisdom in view.

Isaiah 40:12-14 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? Who has understood the Spirit of the Lord, or instructed him as his counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?

A New York Times June 2015 article on frozen embryo donations states that, while no one knows for sure, there may currently be one million frozen embryos in the U.S. About 1.5 percent of U.S. births are the result of IVF.

Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— *Prayer for Life* —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in Your image.
Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value You place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives
of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life
according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

For Further Personal Study & Reflection:

1. **Visit** www.AnglicansforLife.org, www.cbc-network.org, www.frc.org (under “issues”), and www.joniandfriends.org.
What is said at each site about biotechnology?
2. **What concerns do you have about future uses of technology?**
3. **What would you say to the person who says we have to use whatever works to benefit people now? Why do you think some people view children as acquisitions rather than gifts?**
4. **Consider: How do you think the church as a whole ought to address the life issues discussed this week? What do you think your church needs to do? How has your thinking changed over the last several weeks?**
5. **Reread** Isaiah 40:12-14, Proverbs 14:33, and Proverbs 17:34.
What further insights can you glean from these passages? Ask the Lord for wisdom.



Bring your calendar to the
next WEEK!

Script of Week 7 of DVD Presentation

Main Objective: To explore biotechnical innovations, such as stem cell research, human cloning, and reproductive technology, and to examine the ethical issues they raise pertaining to the sanctity of life.

Introduction

Last week, we spoke about End of Life Issues and how medical advances have created new challenges when dealing with aging and natural death. Today, our discussion turns scientific with a look at the world of biotechnology: Embryonic Stem Cell Research, Cloning, and Assisted Reproductive Technology. What do these words mean? Where might biotechnology be taking us? And most importantly, are there ethical reasons why some research and technology should be off-limits?

Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning

Due to the scientific complexity of these issues, I've asked Dr. David Prentice, Senior Fellow for Life Sciences at the Family Research Council, to explain stem cell research and cloning. (7:13)

Video clip

Thank you David

Ethical problems with Using Embryos in Stem Cell and Cloning Research

The belief that it is acceptable to use leftover embryos from InVitro Fertilization is a common justification for endorsing Embryonic Stem Cell Research, but Fr. Tad Pacolczk helps us understand the science and ethical dilemmas behind embryonic stem cell research. (5:00)

Video clip

Thank you Fr. Tad.

Harvesting Women's Eggs

Another ethical concern surrounding stem cell research and cloning is that the research requires the procurement of ova, women's eggs taken from the ovaries.

To ensure successful egg harvesting, women must take special drugs to hyper stimulate the development of multiple eggs. Sadly, no one knows what long-term impact these drugs will have on women's health. There is, also, concern that the financial incentives offered by companies and individuals seeking eggs will exploit poor women to sell their eggs to put food on the table, pay for their education or care for their family.

Reproductive Technology

How many of us are familiar with the story of Frankenstein's Monster? In the novel, Dr. Frankenstein figures out how to create life and creates a being in the likeness of a man, but larger than average and much more powerful. I think Frankenstein's author, Mary Shelley understood man's innate desire to create and control life. Scientific achievements in the 20th century revealed how life begins, and it also allowed man to artificially duplicate the reproductive process, which up until the late 1970s had only occurred through the union of man and woman.

In Vitro and Beyond

On July 25, 1978, Louise Joy Brown, the world's first successful "test-tube" baby conceived using a process called in vitro fertilization was born in Great Britain. Though the technology that made her conception possible was heralded as a triumph in medicine and science, it also caused many to express concern about the possibilities for abuse. Today, the process of in vitro fertilization is considered commonplace and utilized by infertile couples around the world.

Various methods of Assisted Reproductive Technology to create children now include in vitro fertilization, surrogacy, gestational surrogacy, and artificial insemination using egg or sperm donors, all of which can create a myriad of ethical conundrums from custody battles to multiple children existing around the country from a single sperm donor.

A lack of regulations concerning Assisted Reproductive Technology has allowed unethical decisions to be made concerning the children conceived. A current example is a couple in Australia who rejected the child being carried by their surrogate when the baby was diagnosed in utero as having Down syndrome. The parents demanded the surrogate abort the baby or they would abandon it when it was born.

Should these parents be held responsible for the child regardless of the child's condition? Should the doctors performing IVF be held responsible? What do you do with a child who may have 3 biological parents but nobody want him or her?

We need to establish an approach to reproductive technology so we don't abandon children, create leftover frozen embryos or put women at risk during pregnancy.

Couples struggling with infertility problems should be carefully counseled when considering reproductive treatment regarding how many children they are prepared to parent and only create that number of eggs to be implanted. Yes, it's expensive to repeat the procedure, but we must be responsible in recognizing these are human beings – real lives we are creating.

Fetal Anomalies

There is another critical concern that needs to be considered before couples employ assisted reproductive technologies, and that is, should the child be told about the unique circumstances surrounding their conception, if so when do you tell them and how do you tell them? These questions recognize the long-term consequences that potential parents must consider and prayerfully be prepared for.

Maybe we need to re-think how we view children and God's plan in creating them. Our culture seems to see children as an acquisition, something we want and should be entitled to have when it suits our plans. Is this how God wants His people to see children?

Also the number of people facing infertility issues is growing, why? What is causing this? Our identities connected with motherhood and fatherhood are often attached to this struggle, leaving marriages and each person emotionally and spiritually affected. This is all the more reason the Church must be prepared to minister to men and women facing these challenges.

Prenatal testing for fetal anomalies is another area of scientific research that has created a unique set of concerns and issues when a problem is diagnosed. Because of malpractice insurance issues, parents are encouraged to abort or terminate a pregnancy as soon as an abnormality is discovered.

These families need special ministry as they have already begun to bond with their unborn children. They need to be encouraged to allow the pregnancy to follow its natural course. They need to have support as they prepare for the birth and often immediate death of the baby. Certain illnesses will cause the child to be born with physical malformations such as Trisomy 13 which causes the skull to be underdeveloped; a knitted cap can be a small but precious gift in this type of situation. Pictures should be taken, a baptism performed, the baby acknowledged and welcomed into the family. Doing these things allows parents and family members to honor the little life

properly and help them to grieve. This is a growing need that requires pastoral care and lots of grace and mercy.

Christians Need to Stay Informed

Biotechnology and reproductive alternatives have certainly opened the door to many ethical questions and concerns. Just because we can do something does not mean we ought to do it. I encourage all of us to stay informed on these matters. Anglicans for Life encourages church members to discuss these issues openly and honestly, and seek discernment through prayer and the Scriptures.

Twenty years ago, people wondered about the ethics of in vitro fertilization, but now the question we may face very soon is whether a cloned baby could or should be baptized? Abuses have happened with IVF and they will happen with cloning – Will we have to employ euthanasia when someone succeeds in reproductive cloning because it's illegal?

Conclusion

Next session will be our last time together and we will discuss how the Gospel of Life can inspire you to become more involved in addressing these life and death issues in your church and community.

See you next week.



Week 8 Creating an Action Plan

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes early to make sure set-up is taking place and to pray for the class.
- Cue the PROJECT LIFE DVD to session 8.
- Have **THREE** easel papers ready: one blank, one with **“What do you think God is calling you personally to do?”** and the last with **“What do you think God is calling you as a group to do?”** Post previous weeks’ easel papers.
- Have the church calendar and your calendar on hand for planning.
- Bring the **Participant Evaluation** forms with a large manila envelope to collect them.

DURING THE SESSION:

- During **Opening Prayer and Activity:**
 - a. Lead the participants through the prayer and have them do the self-test, PG-40. After they are done, share the answers below.
 - b. Ask them to share examples of how their answers changed over the last eight weeks and what they have learned.

Self-Test Answers –

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. B. | 8. C. |
| 2. False. Over 100,000 abortions occur after the end of the first trimester each year in the United States. | 9. B. |
| 3. True. In some states, women on Medicaid have their abortion paid for by the state government. The state of Michigan stopped using Medicaid funds to pay for abortion in 1988. | 10. A. |
| 4. False. Planned Parenthood is America’s #1 abortion provider, providing almost a quarter million abortions in 2003, according to their annual report. | 11. D. |
| 5. C. | 12. True. |
| 6. C. | 13. C. |
| 7. False. Numerous textbooks on embryology clearly state that at fertilization the life of a human being has begun. | 14. A. |
| | 15. False. Along with Oregon, Montana, Vermont, and Washington have also legalized assisted suicide. |
| | 16. True. China’s policy of one child per couple coerces many women into abortion because of the high fines that they would otherwise have to pay. |
| | 17. D. |
| | 18. B. |
| | 19. C. |
| | 20. D. |

- Introduce the DVD Presentation, by saying words to this effect:

“As you know, while the knowledge you gained is important, what you do with it matters more. Today Georgette will present a number of options for making a difference for Life.”

- At **Group Reflection** time, explain that the whole group will work to create an action plan.
 - A. Lead the group in a brief discussion of this question: What does the Gates of Hell illustration in the DVD tell us about our power to make a difference?
 - B. Direct everyone to page PG-59, "What can YOU do to PROTECT Life?" Lead group in identifying a topic or two to focus on together – abortion, adoption, abstinence, euthanasia, post-abortion, biotechnology. Then write the topic on the easel paper and generate ideas of action to help address that issue. Example – abortion/ministry to a pregnancy center. (If you are having trouble generating ideas, check the "What Can You Do to Protect Life?" brochure for ideas.
 - C. Using easel paper record responses from the group for the following questions.
 - 1. What do you think God is calling you personally to do?
 - 2. What do you think God is calling you as a group to do?
- After coming up with ideas, ask the group to consider one, two, or three (at most) that make sense for your group to work on together. Help them come up with an achievable task along with an overall vision.
- After deciding on a plan, be sure to set a date for the next meeting or event to continue your work! If your church does not have a chapter of Anglicans for Life (or other Life-affirming organization), you may want to form your own chapter now.
- Pray that the Lord will continue to guide your efforts.
- Lead the group through the Prayer for Life on the back page of the Handbook.
- Ask the participants to fill out evaluation form and place them in the envelope.

AFTER THE SESSION:

- Be available if someone wants to talk.
- Make sure clean up takes place.
- Retrieve the DVD.
- Retrieve the easel paper with participants' sticky notes.
- Let the clergy know how the **PROJECT LIFE** series went and your action plans.

DURING THE WEEK:

- Give your prayer team an update. Tell them about your action plans.
- Send us a note at ***Info@anglicansforlife.org*** to let us know what you are planning.
- Work through the final **Personal Study and Reflection** in your Handbook.
- Complete your **Leader's Evaluation**. Send copies of the **Participants' Evaluations** and your **Leader's Evaluation** to: **Anglicans for Life, 80 Leetsdale Industrial Dr, Ste 301 Leetsdale, PA 15056-1034**
- Ask a participant to write a follow-up article about **PROJECT LIFE** for your church newsletter.
- Write thank you notes to key helpers like the Prayer Team, the person who prepared coffee, the techie, those who provided administrative support, and the clergy. (Handwritten notes are really treasured these days!)
- Put your feet up and treat yourself after a job well done!***



WEEK 8

Call to Action: Minister, Educate, and Advocate (*Creating YOUR Action Plan*)

Opening Prayer

Father of heaven and earth, Your Holy Word records this solemn instruction to a king: "Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless. Speak for them and be a righteous judge."

We thank You for the wisdom of Holy Scripture. Raise up leaders in our churches and nations who will protect and speak for the sanctity of life from womb to tomb. Amen.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Opening Activity

1. Of all the topics covered during this course, what sticks in your mind the most?
2. THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

A Commentary by Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life

The Church is the only institution that has a Divine guarantee that it will prevail over the culture of death. "The gates of hell will not prevail against it," the Lord Himself said (Mt. 16:18).

When we hear these words, we usually think, "The Church will survive all the attacks launched against her," and certainly that is part of the meaning. Upon further reflection, however, we realize that in a battle, a gate does not run out into the battlefield to attack the enemy. Rather, the gate stands still and defends the city against the enemy attacking it!

When the Lord says the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church, He means that the Church is taking the initiative and storming the gates! Those gates of hell cannot withstand the power of heaven; gates of sin melt in the presence of saving grace; gates of death fall in the presence of eternal life; gates of falsehood collapse in the presence of living truth; gates of violence fall in the presence of divine love.

This is the power that the Church has, and this is the power that you have!

www.PriestsforLife.org

We are going to revisit the Self Test from the Introduction.

At the end of the session your Leader will share the answers.



Test Your Knowledge of PRO-LIFE ISSUES

WEEK 8

Call to Act: Minister,
Educate, and Advocate
Participant Guide Pg. PG-44

Circle your answer.

- 1. When is abortion legal in the United States?**
 - A. Only in the first 3 months
 - B. Throughout the entire span of pregnancy
 - C. Only in the first 6 months
- 2. True or False: Abortions rarely occur after the first trimester of pregnancy.**
- 3. True or False: Some states use tax dollars to pay for the abortions of women.**
- 4. True or False: Planned Parenthood is a leading pro-life organization.**
- 5. Approximately how many legal abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973?**
 - A. 25 million
 - B. 37 million
 - C. 56 million
- 6. In what state is the practice of assisted suicide legal?**
 - A. California
 - B. Hawaii
 - C. Oregon
- 7. True or False: No one knows when human life begins**
- 8. Approximately when does the heart of an unborn child begin to beat?**
 - A. Eight weeks after fertilization
 - B. Forty days after fertilization
 - C. Twenty-one days after fertilization
- 9. When do unborn babies have all their major organs in place?**
 - A. Sixteen weeks after fertilization
 - B. Eight weeks after fertilization
 - C. Thirteen weeks after fertilization
- 10. When do unborn babies start sucking their thumbs?**
 - A. Eight weeks after fertilization
 - B. Twelve weeks after fertilization
 - C. Twenty weeks after fertilization
- 11. Condoms are completely effective for protecting against**
 - A. Unplanned pregnancies
 - B. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
 - C. Both
 - D. Neither
- 12. True or False: Embryonic stem cell research has never been used to cure any human patient.**
- 13. In animal studies, embryonic stem cells have been shown to?**
 - A. Cause tumors
 - B. Be rejected by the recipient's body
 - C. Both of the above
- 14. African-American women comprise approximately 13% of the US population. What percentage of abortions are performed on African-American women?**
 - A. 38%
 - B. 16%
 - C. 30%
- 15. True or False: Only one state in the U.S. has legalized assisted suicide.**
- 16. True or False: Coerced abortion is currently occurring in China.**
- 17. What makes human beings valuable?**
 - A. Size
 - B. Weight
 - C. Mental capacity
 - D. None of the above
- 18. According to Alan Hazlett, the past president of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, how many couples are looking to adopt for every new born child available for adoption?**
 - A. 4 or 5
 - B. 30 to 40
 - C. 20 to 25
- 19. Somatic cell nuclear transfer is another name for what?**
 - A. Stem cell research
 - B. Abortion
 - C. Cloning
- 20. Research using stem cells from adults and/or umbilical cords has helped people with which of the following diseases?**
 - A. Parkinson's
 - B. Leukemia
 - C. Spinal-cord injuries
 - D. All of the above

Please Share:

After going through this course, how much has your knowledge on life issues increased? What do you want to learn more about?

WEEK 8 DVD Presentation

As you know, while the knowledge you gained during this course is important, what you do with it matters more. Today Georgette will present a number of options for making a difference for Life!

Please take notes using this outline:

Call to Act

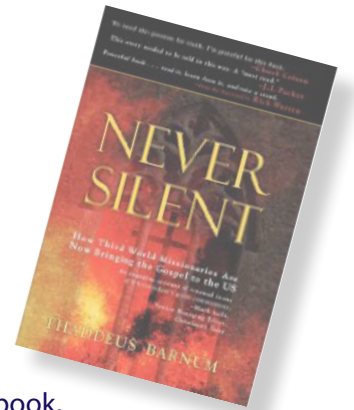
I. What is your calling?

- A. Prayer
- B. Service/Ministry
- C. Educate
- D. Advocate
- E. Give

II. Anglicans FOR LIFE will help you.

- A. Consider starting or joining an Anglicans FOR LIFE chapter at your church
- B. Chapters with different emphases
- C. Local needs

III. Staying silent or united and purposely protecting life



In his book, **Never Silent**, Bishop Thad Barnum included the story about Bishop John Rucyahana who asked his father why he was getting punished for something his sister had done.

His father answered, "You saw she was doing something wrong and you stayed silent."

“We would never have gotten away with what we did if the church had been united, purposeful, and strong.”

Dr. Bernard Nathanson

GROUP *Reflection*

This group reflection will involve the whole class working together on the following:

- Briefly discuss: What does the Gates of Hell illustration in the DVD tell us about our power to make a difference?**
- As a group, identify which topics create the most interest amongst everyone. (abortion, adoption, abstinence, euthanasia, post-abortion, biotechnology).**

Then write the topic(s) on the easel paper. Next begin sharing activities that can be done to address that topic. For example—identified topic is abortion; possible activities could be volunteering at a pregnancy center or praying for the local abortion clinic to stop providing abortions. (If you are having trouble generating ideas, see page 113 (PG-61) “What Can You Do to Protect Life?” for ideas.)

- Using another sheet of easel paper, as a group, you will list ideas for the following questions.**

A. What do you think God is calling you personally to do?

B. What do you think God is calling you as a group to do?

After listing these ideas, prayerfully, as a group decide on one or two strategies to do together. You will also set a date to gather again to continue work on your plan.

Your Leader will be working with you to schedule follow-up meetings and ministry. If your church does not have an Anglicans FOR LIFE Chapter, you may want to form one.

Do you want to
**Educate?
Advocate?
or Do Ministry?**

Ideas for Action

Advocate for Life through prayer - join AFL's Prayer Team.

Volunteer at a pregnancy center or hospice care facility or nursing home.

Run an abortion after-care program at your church.

Invite a speaker from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to come and share testimony.



Teach an abstinence program at your church.

Write letters-to-editors educating them on life issues.

Post life-affirming comments on blogs.

Visit your legislators and let them know you want them to respect/protect life.

Financially support life-affirming ministries like Anglicans for Life.

 See where God is working in your community and join Him! 

Henry Blackaby,
“Experiencing God”

Closing Thoughts & Prayers

- Post an impression or insight on the easel paper.
- People may briefly share their thoughts with the group.
- Pray together about what you have learned today.
- Close with praying the Prayer for Life together.

— *Prayer for Life* —

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image.

Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love.

Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life.

Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community.

Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly.

Today I commit myself to never be silent, to never be forgetful of respecting life.

I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord.

Amen

For Further Personal Study & Reflection:

1. Visit www.AnglicansforLife.org and look for ideas. Check out the resources! Sign up for the News Brief and Carpe Diem Newsletter so you can stay informed.
2. Pray and consider where you could apply your gifts.
3. Write down a personal plan. Keep it simple and feasible. You may want to focus only on one or two tasks at this time.
 - Plan to share what you are doing when your group gets together again.
 - Visit us at the Project Life section of the Anglicans FOR LIFE site. Drop us a line or send an email to share with us what you are doing.
4. Pray for Anglicans FOR LIFE and for pro-life issues. Use the Prayer for Life on a regular basis or purchase “Life-Affirming Bible Verses, Prayer, Litanies, and Liturgies” from Anglicans FOR LIFE as a resource to help in your personal prayers or in your church’s worship.
5. Never forget: **WHAT YOU DO DOES MATTER.**

**With the strength of Christ,
YOU can make a difference**

for Life!

Script of Week 8 of DVD Presentation

Main Objective: to explore and strategize ways to affirm Life, in the power of the Gospel of life that will lead to concrete action plans developed by each participant and the group so they can use all the knowledge learned over the last seven weeks to make a difference for life.

Introduction

For the last seven weeks, we have talked about the various aspects and challenges that the culture of death presents. Today we will discuss the many ways you can live out the Gospel of Life. But before we look at strategies, I would like to share with you a brief commentary by Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life about the power of the Church. Fr. Frank says...

"The Church is the only institution that has a Divine guarantee that it will prevail over the culture of death. The Lord Himself said in Matthew Chapter 16 verse 18. "The gates of hell will not prevail against it," When we hear these words, we usually think, "The Church will survive all the attacks launched against her," and certainly that is part of the meaning but upon further reflection, we realize that in a battle, a gate does not run out into the battlefield to attack the enemy. Rather, the gate stands still and defends the city against the attacking enemy! When the Lord says the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church, He means that the Church is taking the initiative and storming the gates! Those gates of hell cannot withstand the power of heaven; gates of sin melt in the presence of saving grace; gates of death fall in the presence of eternal life; gates of falsehood collapse in the presence of living truth; gates of violence fall in the presence of divine love. This is the power that the Church has, and this is the power that you have!"

It is our prayer that the ideas shared here will encourage you and those around you to pray and work together to create an action plan to address life issues in your church and community.

What is Your Call?

As I said, over the last seven weeks, we've seen what medical advances, rights of individuals, and the culture of death philosophy has led to. The ethical problems and long-term consequences of wanting to control life and death have left a permanent imprint of pain on every heart. No one has been spared. Look at the people in your community, your church, at your office, at your favorite restaurant and you will see plenty of people who need the Good News of the Gospel of Life. While we can't wave a magic wand and make the world instantly believe that God is the creator of life and that every human being deserves respect and protection, we can ask the Lord to show us what He wants each of us to do for Life.

Is He calling you to pray? To serve? To educate? To advocate for the poor and vulnerable? To give?

To Pray?

As Christians, we are all called to pray. We need to be in constant prayer about Life Issues as the culture of death is a tool of Satan. Prayer is a major weapon against the Evil One. We need to pray that people's hearts are turned to defend the unborn children, those with profound needs, the elderly, and those who are vulnerable. We need to pray for our leaders in the church and the government that they exercise godly wisdom and compassion on Life issues.

To Serve?

We also need to seek the Lord, together and individually, as to how we can make a difference.

Practical service is also an important part of ministry. For example, those facing unplanned pregnancy need a lot of hands-on-help from us in the Church so here are some specific ideas to consider:

Pregnancy Resource Centers as I discussed in week four –are great places to partner with. Find a center near your church and if one doesn't exist consider starting one! We've had churches help start centers in a number of areas and one church in New York houses a Pregnancy Resource Center right in their building. These centers are a great way to get involved as they need volunteers of all ages: your church, especially your children's ministry or youth group can do a diaper drive and donate them to the center who pass them on to moms. Consider providing financial support, or post information about the center's services in your bulletin. You can also:

- Run an Abortion Aftercare Healing program at your church – or share information about a program being held at another location. Let those who are hurting after abortion know help is available.
- Invite a Silent No More Regional Coordinator to speak at your church and share their testimony.
- Check into Volunteering at a Hospice Centre or nursing home.
- Learn about different abstinence programs, and obtain training to present the program in your community or to your youth group.
- A simple way to minister to birthparents after they have placed their child for adoption is to include them in Mother's/Father's day prayers. Or ask them how their child is doing if the adoption was open and they get updates.

To Educate?

In addition to hands on service and ministry, consider working to educate others about Life Issues:

Start by identifying who you are called to educate. Are you seeking to educate your church, you community, your family, your coworkers, or teens? Look for materials that will stimulate their interests. Fortunately, there are many resources for you to use in educating others. What are different ways to educate others?

- Share Anglicans for Life's Published Resources, we publish brochures, booklets, and helpful articles.
- Visit websites, AFL.org, SNM.com PFL.org, where there are lots of great links to additional resources! You can even sign up to get daily life news at LifeNews.com and LifeSiteNews.com. A good teacher constantly stays informed! Email information you read on websites to others.
- Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter also allows you to post links to articles. I try and do this twice a week and pose questions related to the article topic to stimulate discussion which allows the post to be shared even more!
- Write life-affirming letters to editors of newspapers or post pro-life comments at the end of articles online or on blogs. – remember to be succinct and try to only address one-point only!
- Another way to educate people is to invite Life speakers to present at your church, civic group, or library. Anglicans for Life can help you identify engaging speakers who will be effective in your setting.

I'd also be remiss if I didn't note that, if you've personally been involved in an abortion, I encourage you to go through a healing program, and in God's time allow Him to use your story to raise awareness about the long-term reality of abortion in your life. I have attended two healing programs and they were life changing and a huge blessing.

To Advocate?

While some are called to minister for life and others to educate, there is a growing need for people to become Advocates for the vulnerable.

- There is also Political advocacy – you can visit your local, state and federal representatives, write them

letters letting them know you support Life and you want them to as well. If a specific piece of legislation is up for a vote, call their office and register your opinion, they do listen and consider comments from their constituency. Make sure you know where candidates stand on Life Issues before you vote for them.

- Public advocacy is sometimes seen as picketing in front of abortion clinics but it is much more than that. It's raising awareness in a variety of ways. Going before your local school board to speak in support of an abstinence program or along with a girl when she tells her parents that she is pregnant. I encourage people to get involved with the 40 Days for Life campaigns– advocating before God with prayer and fasting to end abortion and close clinics has led to 9,242 babies being saved and over 100 clinic workers quitting as of October 2014.
- Also keep in mind, the need for activism at the end of life as efforts to legalize Assisted Suicide intensifies – visit the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition's website for specific ways to advocate.

To Give?

As always, it is important to "put our money where our mouth is." We need to be intentional about supporting organizations like Anglicans for Life who are countering the agenda of the culture of death. Additionally, we should be aware of where various organizations stand on Life Issues before donating. There are a number of charitable organizations that take an anti-life stance on issues.

Anglicans for Life Can Help you Fulfill God's Call

Anglicans for Life wants to help you follow God's call to take a stand for Life as never before. All of us can pray and stay informed on Life Issues. Your attendance here these eight weeks is to be applauded. Now that you have all this information and knowledge, what's next, what are you going to do for Life?

- Anglicans for Life suggests you start each day praying our prayer for Life.
- You can lead another eight week class using the Embrace the Journey Curriculum or invite me to present our Quasar Conference, which presents abortion and Euthanasia in a half-day conference format.
- You can introduce our Declaration of Life Statement to your church leaders and ask them to adopt it and include it in the Church's statement of belief.
- Consider starting an Anglicans for Life Chapter or becoming a Life Leader at your church. Organizing as a chapter allows you to have an umbrella organization to partner with and get supporting resources from. We help you identify your topic of interest and what type of activities you want to organize. For instance, we have chapters that focus on educating their parish on biotech issues like cloning and stem cell research. We, also, have another chapter that is involved with 40 Days for Life. Many chapters support Pregnancy Centers through annual baby showers. All the gifts are donated to the center so that they can be given to new moms. Look around your community, assess the needs concerning Life Issues. What's happening with the elderly, the youth, is there a university/college campus nearby?

Henry Blackaby from Experiencing God always says 'see where God is working in your community and join Him!'

Pray for wisdom to discern His call and always remember Anglicans for Life is here to help you. We have a list of 95 things you can do for life! Email me at Info@Anglicansforlife.org or visit www.AnglicansForLife.org

Conclusion

I would like to close our time together with this final story –

Author Bishop Thad Barnum In the book *Never Silent* explains what motivated Rwandan Bp. John Roosheana to help the American Church. Thad tells the story of the bishop's sister getting in trouble when she was little for riding the family's bike, which was their only means of transportation. Both John and his sister were punished. John asked his father why he was getting punished, and John's father said, you saw she was doing something wrong and you stayed silent. Later in the book, John relates how the world was silent, including the Church, when almost one million Tutsis were killed by genocide in Rwanda.

Bp. Roosheana's statement about silence reminded me of another comment about silence – by Dr. Bernard Nathanson, one of the chief architects of the strategy to legalize abortion. In the 1960s he was an abortionist who by his own admission killed thousands of babies. He helped launch NARAL and played a major role in devising the strategy that paved the way for *Roe v Wade* and legalized abortion-on-demand throughout all nine months. Dr. Nathanson admits that he and his fellow abortion supporters feared that the clergy and the church would mount a massive, nationwide outcry that would challenge the false claims that abortion supporters were making and ultimately defeat them.

He stated: "We would never have gotten away with what we did if the church had been united, purposeful, and strong."

But the Church and God's people weren't united, purposeful, or strong. For too long we've been silent while the culture of death has mounted a relentless campaign against the Gospel of Life. Now is the time to end that effort. Remember that the Church has the power to prevail against the Gates of Hell. Now, go use your power!

Thank you for participating in PROJECT LIFE. Thanks to St. Stephen's Church in Sewickley, PA for sacred setting. God Bless you as you make a difference for LIFE!

Notes

PROJECT LIFE Participant Evaluation

Thank you for participating in the PROJECT LIFE series. We are praying that this series will encourage many people to become more committed and active for Life. Your feedback on this short evaluation will help us improve future PROJECT LIFE series.

Please rank your response to the following questions:

1 = Strongly Disagree 6 = Strongly Agree

1. I feel better informed about Life issues.

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

2. The information presented in PROJECT LIFE was helpful and relevant.

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

3. I have a deeper understanding of the biblical reasons that Christians need to support Life.

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

4. After going through PROJECT LIFE, I feel a stronger commitment to Life issues.

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

5. The Participant Handbook was a helpful tool for me throughout the PROJECT LIFE series.

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

6. The PROJECT LIFE series was organized well.

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

7. After going through PROJECT LIFE, I have strategies for personally making a difference for Life.

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

Please rank your response to the following components of PROJECT LIFE on an OVERALL basis:

1 = Not Helpful At All 6 = Extremely Helpful

1. The Opening Prayers and Thought Sections

1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

2. The DVD segments

1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

3. The group discussions

1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

4. The Closing Thoughts and Prayer sections
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)
5. The Personal Study and Reflection exercises
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)
4. The Handbook as an aid to learning
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

Please share your thoughts on these questions:

1. What did you find most helpful about PROJECT LIFE?

2. How are you likely to be active for Life because of going through PROJECT LIFE?

3. What would you improve about Project Life?

4. Would you recommend Project Life to others?

5. Other Comments

PROJECT LIFE Leader's Evaluation

Thank you for coordinating this Project Life series. We are praying that this series will encourage many people to become more committed and active for Life. Your feedback on this short evaluation will help us improve future Project Life series.

Please rank your response to the following statements:

1 = Strongly Disagree 6 = Strongly Agree

1. The Project Life series helped our people become more committed to Life.
1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)
2. Because of Project Life, our church or group is becoming more active in Life issues.
1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)
3. Project Life was a setting where people had fruitful discussions.
1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)
4. The group atmosphere was positive and productive in Project Life.
1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)
5. The DVD segments helped people understand Life issues better.
1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)
6. The Leader's Guide was helpful in the planning of Project Life.
1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 6 (Strongly Agree)

Please rank your response to the following components of Project Life:

1 = Not Helpful At All 6 = Extremely Helpful

1. The DVD segments
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)
2. The group discussions
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)
3. The Handbooks as an aid to learning
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)
4. The Personal Study and Reflection exercises
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

5. The overview of the major responsibilities for coordinators in the Leader's Guide
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

6. The checklist in the Leader's Guide
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

7. The Pastoral Support Resource List in the Leader's Guide
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

8. The publicity helps at the Project Life section of Anglicans for Life site
1 (Not Helpful At All) 2 3 4 5 6 (Extremely Helpful)

Please share your thoughts on these questions:

1. How do you think the PROJECT LIFE series has influenced your group?

2. What did you find helpful in the Leader's Guide?

3. What would you improve or add to the Leader's Guide?

4. What other support could you have used as the Leader?

5. What advice would you give to other Leaders of the Project Life series?

6. Other comments?

Please share your thoughts on these questions:

1. What did you find most helpful about Project Life?

2. How are you likely to be active for Life because of going through Project Life?

3. What would you improve about Project Life?

4. Other Comments

Please fax evaluation forms to:

412-749-9122

OR

Mail to:

Anglicans for Life

80 Leetsdale Industrial Drive, Suite 301

Leetsdale, PA 15056-1034

Thank You!



We Thank You!

Here at Anglicans for Life we see the Sanctity of Life as the basis for all we do, think, and say.

Words cannot express how grateful we are that you have honored God, the Creator of all Life, with the gift of your time to coordinate and lead this Adult Education series.

*We will never know, on this side of heaven, how your willingness to serve has impacted lives for eternity. We are so grateful for your commitment to lead **PROJECT LIFE** and we praise God for you!*

For His glory,



Deacon Georgette Forney

President, Anglicans for Life

Co-Founder, Silent No More Awareness Campaign



PROJECT LIFE *Bibliography*

Week 1 - Age Old Enemies: Life and Death

Books

Third Time Around: A History of the Pro-Life Movement

By George Grant

Wolgemuth & Hyatt, Publishers, Inc., 1991, ISBN 0-943497-65-5

A Love for Life: Christianity's Consistent Protection of the Unborn

By Dennis DiMauro

Wipf and Stock Publishers 2008, ISBN 978-1-55635-828-9

Population Control: Real Costs, Illusory Benefits

By Steven W. Mosher

Transaction Publishers, 2008, ISBN 978-1-4128-0712-8

Margaret Sanger's Eugenic Legacy: The Control of Female Fertility

By Angela Franks

McFarland & Company, Inc., 2005, ISBN 0-7864-2011-1

The Architects of the Culture of Death

By Donald DeMarco, Benjamin Wiker

Ignatius Press, 2004, ISBN 1-58617-016-3

The Gospel of Life: Evangelium Vitae

By Pope John Paul II

Pauline Books & Media, 1995, ISBN 081983078X

Holy Abortion? A Theological Critique of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

By Michael J. Gorman and Ann Loar Brooks

Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003, ISBN 1-59244-185-8

DVD's

Maafa 21: Black Genocide in the 21st Century, Produced by Life Dynamics, Order at Maafa21.com

Web Resources

Family Research Council: www.focusonthefamily.ca/

Physicians for Life: www.physiciansforlife.ca/

Campaign Life Coalition is Canada's Premier Life-affirming Organization: www.CampaignLifeCoalition.com

AFL Resources*

Curriculum - Embrace the Journey

Conference - Quasar Conference - A 3-hour presentation on Life issues

Article - "Why Life is Important," by Georgette Forney

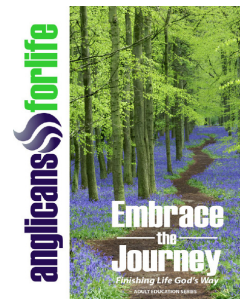
Booklet - "Life Affirming Bible Verses, Prayers, Liturgies and Litanies"

Abortion and the Early Church

By Dael E. Smith, Jr.

Originally distributed by Life Anglicans, 9 Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, England

Published with permission by Anglicans for Life, www.AnglicansforLife.org



Embrace the Journey

8-week, DVD curriculum

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AnglicansforLife.org



Quasar Conference

A 3-hour presentation on
Life issues

Week 2 - Abortion: The Most Pronounced Symptom of The Culture of Death

Books

ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments

By Randy Alcorn

Multnomah Publishers, 2000, ISBN 1-57673-751-9

Love Them Both: Abortion: Questions & Answers

By Dr. & Mrs. Jack Wilke

Hayes Publishing, 2003, ISBN 910728-23-2

Recall Abortion: Ending the Abortion Industry's Exploitation of Women

By Janet Morana

Saint Benedict Press, 2013, ISBN 978-1-61890-127-9

Essays

"Becoming a Pro-Women, Pro-Life Persuader"

By Frederica Matthews-Greene

University Faculty for Life, 1994. Posted @ www.frederica.com

DVD's

"Window to the Womb 2"

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

Order from Life Issues Institute, 1-513-729-3600, or visit www.lifeissues.org

"Family Policy Perspectives"

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

Order from the North Carolina Family Policy Council, 1-919-807-0800, or visit www.ncfamily.org

"The Biology of Prenatal Development," 2006, Endowment for Human Development, www.EHD.org

Alexander Tsiras: Conception to birth -- visualized - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKyljukBE70>

How to build a Human internet site that shows the stages of human development:

<http://tabletopwhale.com/2014/12/16/how-to-build-a-human.html>

Web Resources

www.nrlc.org

The website for National Right To Life, Educational Trust Fund, has a written description of abortion techniques.

www.guttmacher.org/presentations/abort_slides.pdf

View complete slide presentation featuring data about abortion in the United States.

www.nrlc.org/Factsheets/FS06_AbortionTechniques.pdf

Provides detailed explanation of all abortion techniques.

Rights by Stealth noted by Austin Ruse

<https://c-fam.org/?s=rights+by+stealth>

To find a pregnancy centre near you, visit <http://www.capss.com/find-a-centre>

Week 3 - After Abortion: Truth and Consequences

Books

Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion

By Theresa Burke

2002, Acorn Books ISBN 0-9648957-8-1

Redeeming A Father's Heart, Men Share Powerful Stories of Abortion Loss and Recovery,

By Kevin Burke LSW, David Wemhoff, Marvin Stockwell

AuthorHouse, 2007, ISBN 978-1-4343-1367-6(sc)

You're Not Alone, Healing Through God's Grace After Abortion

By Jennifer O'Neill

Health Communications, Inc., 2005, ISBN 0-7573-0168-1

Women's Health After Abortion

By Elizabeth Ring-Cassidy and Ian Gentles

The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research, 2002, ISBN 0-920453-24-4,

www.deveber.org

Over Coffee We Shared Our Secrets, A Novel

By Julie Surface Johnson

WinePress Publishing, 2008, ISBN 1-57921-973-4



Victims & Victims:

Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions, and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault

By Reardon, Makimaa, Sobie

Acorn Publishing, 2000, ISBN 978-0964895713

DVD's

"ABC Link, Abortion Breast Cancer Link"

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

To order call The Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, 1-866-662-6237, or visit www.bcpinstitute.org

Web Resources

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign has an extensive variety of resources available

List of books: <http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/resources/books-video-music.aspx>

Healing Resources: www.AbortionForgiveness.org

Abortion Testimonies: www.AbortionTestimony.org

Abortion Memorials: <http://www.unbornmemorials.com/>

List of Victims of Abortion: www.SilentNoMore.com/DeathsFromAbortion

Contains Georgette's testimony and additional data about studies and research done on abortion's impact on women.

<http://www.silentnomore.com/articles/article.aspx?articleid=91&owner=0>

Provides women and men with a place to register their regret about an abortion anonymously.

<http://www.silentnomore.com/regret/index.aspx>

To find a pregnancy centre near you, visit <http://www.capss.com/find-a-centre>

World Expert Consortium for Abortion Research and Education: <http://wecareexperts.org/content/about-us>

AFL Resources*

Brochures – "Help for Hurting Hearts" and "What's So Bad About Abortion"

Week 4 - Adoption The Gospel of Life In Unexpected Pregnancies

Books

Surprise Child, Finding Hope in Unexpected Pregnancy

By Leslie Leyland Fields

WaterBrook Press, 2006, ISBN 1-4000-7094-5

I'm Pregnant...Now What, Heartfelt Advice on Getting Through an Unplanned Pregnancy

By Ruth Graham and Sara Dormon, Ph.D.

Regal Books, 2002, ISBN 0-8307-3575-5

Mom, Dad...I'm Pregnant

By Jayne E. Schooler

NavPress, 2004, ISBN 1-57683-482-4

How To Survive Your Teen's Pregnancy

By Linda Ellen Perry and Lynellen Perry

Second Edition, Chalfont House, 2003-2008, ISBN 978-0-9720111-5-0

DVD's

"Letting Go" Birthparents Share Their Journeys Through Adoption

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

Order from Bethany Christian Services, 1-800-BETHANY(238-4269), or visit www.bethany.org

"Life: An International Perspective"

Order from Anglicans for Life, 1-412-749-0455, or from our online catalogue @ www.AnglicansforLife.org

"The Biology of Prenatal Development," 2006, Endowment for Human Development, www.EHD.org

Web Resources

www.anglican.adoption.com & www.episcopal.adoption.com

Provides information from denominational perspective.

www.bethany.org/A55798/bethanyWWW.nsf/0/D36EC47D81C4FA5A85256EA9005E7306

Church resources to help address adoption issues.

www.LifetimeAdoption.com or 1-800-923-6784

Lifetime Adoption helps families and birthmothers come together.

Week 5 - Abstinence: The Gospel of Life vs. The Culture of Sex

Books

Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity

By Lauren F. Winner

Brazos Press, 2005, ISBN 1-58743-069-X

Why Say No When My Hormones Say Go?

By Emily Parke Chase

Christian Publications, Inc., 2003, ISBN 0-88965-196-5

Before Your Say Yes to Sex or a Baby, A Thought-Provoking Workbook for Teenage Girls and Young Ladies

By Kimberly Timmis-Kennedy

Llumina Press, 2005, ISBN 1-59526-486-8

Sex: More Than A Plumbing Lesson, Teaching Your Kids Sexual Values

By Amy Scheuring

Christian Publications, Inc., 1984, ISBN 0-7509-980-7

True Purity: More Than Just Saying “No” to You-Know-What

By Hayley & Michael DeMarco

Fleming H. Revel Company, 2013, ISBN 978-080072-068-1

Web Resources

Websites that feature information about the Theology of the Body:

www.theologyofthebody.net www.christopherwest.com www.tobinstitute.org

www.Teenwire.com

A Planned Parenthood site that is geared to provide teens with information from their perspective. Important to see what they promote.

www.StandupGirl.com

Great site for teens to get good information about life and sex.

www.TeenBreaks.com

Great site for teens to get good information about life and sex.

www.ccli.org

Couple to Couple information site for Natural Family Planning.

www.bcpinstitute.org/steroid_brochure.htm

Brochure from the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute that explains impact of birth-control pills on women's health.

www.omsoul.com

One More Soul is a website that has a lot of information about contraception and natural family planning.

DVD

The Biology of Prenatal Development, 2006, Endowment for Human Development, www.EHD.org

AFL Resources*

Booklet – “God, Sex and Teens”

Week 6 - Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide: Who Controls Death?

Books

Culture of Death: The Assault On Medical Ethics in America

By Wesley J. Smith

Encounter Books, 2000, ISBN 1-893554-06-6

Protective Medical Decision Document

By The Patient's Rights Council

1-800-958-5678 or www.PatientsRightsCouncil.org

DVD's

"Turning the Tide"

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

Order from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, 1-877-439-3348 or Salt & Light Television @ www.saltandlighttv.org

"Family Policy Perspectives"

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

Order from the North Carolina Family Policy Council 1-919-807-0800 or visit www.ncfamily.org

Web Resources

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: www.epcc.ca

Wesley J. Smith's Blog: <http://www.wesleyjsmith.com/blog/blogger.html>

Life Beyond the Grave - What Happens When You Die? Video presentation by Bp. Julian Dobbs

<https://vimeo.com/channels/876573>

Bishop Dobbs says, "We are all interested in life beyond the grave and what happens to a person at the end of their life. This series will allow us to study what the Bible says about life beyond the grave and what happens when we die."

Part 1 - Hades: What is Hades and what happens when you die? Luke 16

Part 2 - Hell: Eternal torment or medieval myth? Matthew 8, Matthew 13, Matthew 22, Luke 13

Part 3 - Heaven: A place prepared by Jesus. John 14

Part 4 - Judgment: The books will be opened; who will be judged?. Revelation 20

Part 5 - Questions and Answers



AFL Resources*

Curriculum: Embrace the Journey

Bibliography Listing of the best articles and videos AFL believes provides relevant and helpful information on Week 6 topics can be found here: <http://anglicansforlife.org/end-of-life-bibliography/>

For some excellent information about current and historical issues regarding euthanasia, stealth euthanasia, hospice, advance directives and other pertinent topics, please check out these resources.

Pro-life Healthcare Alliance: <http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/>

Hospice Patient's Alliance: <http://www.hospicepatients.org/>

Prenatal Partners for Life: <http://www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org/>

Read Stealth Euthanasia: Health Care Tyranny in America by Ron Panzer, an online book:
<http://www.hospicepatients.org/this-thing-called-hospice.html>

Week 7 - Biotechnology and Cloning: The Future is Now

Books

The Shaming of the Strong: The Challenge of an Unborn Life

By Sarah Williams

Life Journey, 2005, ISBN 1-84291-179-1

Embryo: A Defense of Human Life

Robert George and Christopher Tollefsen

Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2008, ISBN 978-0385522823

AFL Resources*

Booklet: "I Am A Clone and So Am I"

DVD's

"Family Policy Perspectives"

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

Order from the North Carolina Family Policy Council 1-919-807-0800 or visit www.ncfamily.org

"Cutting Through the Spin on Stem Cells and Cloning"

Excerpts from this DVD were used in this week with permission.

Order from The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, PA, 1-215-877-2660 or visit www.nccbcenter.org



Web Resources

www.StemCellResearch.org

www.Choicesmc.org

www.cbc-network.org

www.stemcellresearchfacts.org

Dr. David Prentice, Family Research Council <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF09A47.pdf>

www.frc.org - For a glossary list of biotech terms

Fr. Tad Pacolczk, National Catholic Bioethics Center, <http://www.ncbcenter.org/page.aspx?pid=1166>

Provincial Background Paper from the Library of Parliament on Legal status of Assisted Human Reproduction in Canada
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/2011-82-e.pdf>

Reproductive Teshnology Issues

www.popepaulvi.com - *The Pope Paul VI Institute is the only Catholic Institution of its type in the United States and perhaps the world that has dedicated its services to the development of morally and professionally acceptable reproductive health services.*

www.naprotechnology.com - *The home page for NaProTECHNOLOGY. Contains information about the new women's health science and about its foundation.*

www.creightonmodel.com - *The home page for the CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System. Contains information about learning the CrMS for practitioners and for client-couples.*

www.omsoul.com - *One More Soul is a website that has a lot of information about contraception and natural family planning.*

www.BeNotAfraid.net

www.Perinatalhospice.org

Week 8 Call to Act: Minister, Educate, & Advocate (Creating YOUR Action Plan)

Books

Ending Abortion: Not Just Fighting It

By Fr. Frank A. Pavone, M.E.V.

Catholic Book Publishing, 2006, ISBN 978-0-89942-131-5

Never Silent

By Thaddeus Barnum

Eleison Publishing, 2008, ISBN 978-0-61520-694-3

God's Word for Life: Bible

Published by Lutherans for Life

<http://www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm>

A Love for Life: Christianity's Consistent Protection of the Unborn

By Dennis Di Mauro

Wipf & Stock Publishing, 2008, ISBN 978-1-55635-828-9

AFL Resources*

Booklet – "NPRC Devotional: 30 Days for Life"

Brochure – Clergy Counseling After-Abortion Resource: "I Had an Abortion 5 Years Ago and Now I Need Help"

Brochure - What Can You Do to Protect Life

Flyer - 10 Things a Pro-Life Church Does

YOUTUBE:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SilentNoMoreCampaign>

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign YouTube Channel features testimonies of women and men who will no longer be silent about the pain and regret of their abortion loss.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AnglicansforLife>

The Anglicans for Life YouTube Channel features Anglican bishops and members of the clergy speaking about the sacredness of life, special presentations and sermons by guest lecturers, and important messages from President George Forney. It's a great resource for your church!

***AFL Resources may be ordered from Anglicans for Life, call 1-412-749-0455, or go to our online catalogue @ www.anglicansforlife.org.**

We highly recommend our friends at **Heritage House '76, Inc.** They share our commitment to protecting the Sanctity of Life and they provide the largest selection of pro-life materials possible including our Silent No More Awareness Campaign materials. **Call 1-800-858-3040 or visit www.hh76.com**

The Rise of Stealth Euthanasia: Imposed Death Disguised as Pain Relief

by Ralph A. Capone, MD, FACP, Kenneth R. Stevens Jr., MD, FACR, Julie Grimstad, and Ron Panzer, LPN

June 2013 Volume 38, Number 6

Medications used to manage pain and other symptoms—opiates, sedatives and barbiturates—can be misused to cause death. The intention to kill a patient, not just to treat pain and other symptoms, is becoming more common in palliative and end-of-life care settings. The purpose of this article is to expose disingenuous arguments used to hide intentionality to kill patients in end-of-life care settings.

A nurse informed one of the authors that a doctor admitted a patient with painful metastatic prostate cancer and then verbally directed the nurse to “warp him out of this world.” She informed the doctor that she and the other nurses would provide the appropriate care for the patient, but the doctor insisted that the patient not be alive the next morning. However, the nurses were able to relieve the patient’s symptoms without causing his death.

Kevin O’Reilly, writer for American Medical News, states that “treatments—when conducted with the consent of patients or surrogate decision-makers and implemented with the intent of alleviating pain or other symptoms in terminally ill patients—are broadly accepted as ethically and legally appropriate, even if they have the secondary effect of speeding the dying process.”¹

The principle of double effect is used to assess a good action that has both an intended good (primary) effect and an unintended bad (secondary) effect. Invoking the principle of double effect to justify speeding the dying process is disingenuous. In some palliative and end-of-life care settings, death from palliative sedation or use of opioids is not a secondary effect, but either the intended primary goal or the unintended result of failure to properly educate clinical staff. Becket Gremmels correctly reported that “the majority of studies have found that palliative sedation does not hasten death when used appropriately” and that there is “overwhelming evidence that the appropriate use of opioids at the end of life does not hasten death, and thus is not amenable to double-effect reasoning.”² The key word is “appropriate.”

Hospice and palliative care physicians and nurses must be well trained in the appropriate administration of medications and understand their potential to hasten death. Otherwise, unintentionally caused deaths are inevitable. When the staff is properly educated and the founding principles of hospice—to maintain dignity, to increase quality of life, and to provide comfort and pain control—are followed, hospice is a safe haven for patients in need of expert end-of-life care.

Double-effect reasoning should not be used to justify inappropriate use of opioids and sedation. At best, it is inaccurate to use the principle of double effect to justify an a priori intention to kill. At worst, it is a misleading attempt to justify an evil action.

Proper Titration of Opioid Analgesics

International standards of palliative medicine require careful dosage calculation and titration for administration of opioids to manage moderate to severe pain in patients. It is well established that clinically unnecessary doses of opioid medications or extreme increases in dosage are likely to cause adverse effects, such as respiratory suppression, loss of consciousness, coma, and even death.³ Nazi doctors perfected euthanasia through morphine administration, so pretending that morphine use is always safe is a fantasy.⁴

When opioids are used to impose death, health care professionals usually cloak their actions by telling families that the signs of approaching death being observed are due to a terminal illness, not to the adverse effects of a clinical overdose, which conveniently mirror some of the signs of the end-stage active phase of dying.⁵

Misuse of Palliative Sedation

For decades, the praiseworthy goal of the hospice and palliative care mission has been to relieve patients’ distressing symptoms, but never to hasten death. Even when a patient asked to be killed, it was always understood to be a cry for relief from suffering—physical, emotional, or spiritual—and not as permission to take a life.

Today, permanent sedation and the withholding of nutrition and hydration are often done with the intention that the patient die. This practice is known by various terms: “terminal sedation,” “palliative sedation,” “total sedation,” “permanent sedation,” “comfort sedation,” and “deep continuous sedation.” Authentic terminal sedation is used to relieve “terminal agitation” or restlessness at the end of life. It is never appropriately used as a first line of therapy. Permanent sedation is properly used when pain is so extreme that absolutely no other means have been effective.

Sedation has a legitimate place in end-of-life care but must be used only when absolutely necessary. When palliative sedation is misused to cause death, the patient is placed in a medically induced coma and nutrition and hydration is withheld. When this happens, circulatory collapse occurs from fluid volume deficit within a few days to a few weeks, depending on the patient's condition. This is an excruciating process for the patient and for those who must keep watch at the bedside.

Dr. William Burke, a St. Louis neurologist, describes what happens to patients as they undergo death from dehydration: "They will go into seizures. Their skin cracks, their tongue cracks, their lips crack. They may have nosebleeds because of the drying of the mucus membranes, and heaving and vomiting might ensue because of the drying out of the stomach lining. . . . It is an extremely agonizing death." 6 Even if patients are sedated, how could we be certain that they would feel no pain, thirst, or hunger?

Many in the field of hospice and palliative care—medical and nursing directors, nurses, social workers, and chaplains—as well as physicians across the country, confirm that there is a clear trend toward hastening deaths of patients. Oncologists and primary care practitioners are shocked when their patients, who have chronic or terminal illnesses but are not in the active phase of dying and are not expected to die suddenly, die within days or weeks of entering hospice. Internationally known hospice and palliative care leaders confirm these reports.7 These professionals cannot all be wrong or ignorant.

Confirmation

Fifteen years ago, Dr. Joanne Lynn, a foremost authority in modern palliative care, was quoted in the *New York Times*: "When a patient is ready to die, I can stop nutrition and hydration, I can stop insulin and ventilation. I can sedate them." 8 This is intended death, not death from any terminal illness. Dr. Timothy E. Quill, palliative care specialist and physician-assisted suicide advocate, and Dr. Ira R. Byock, prominent hospice and palliative care physician, suggest that when patients request that death be hastened, terminal sedation and voluntary refusal of hydration and nutrition can "substantially increase patients' choices at this inherently challenging time." 9

Thus, many hospice and palliative care physicians are urging, and actually performing, euthanasia by stealth. They administer sedatives that in themselves do not cause immediate death, but knowingly cause the conditions that result in death. This misuse of terminal sedation with intent to end life is properly termed "stealth euthanasia"—it is not active euthanasia or passive euthanasia, but a combination of both.10

It strikes people as wrong to withdraw food and fluids from patients who are not in the end-stage active phase of dying. O'Reilly, perhaps unintentionally, exposes this fact: "New developments in end-of-life care—aggressive pain and symptom management (even to the point of unconsciousness), along with a greater willingness to withdraw advanced, life-sustaining treatments such as mechanical ventilation, dialysis, and artificial hydration and nutrition—still strike many people as wrong." 11 It is horrifying that health care professionals—those to whom we entrust our lives—intentionally hasten death while pretending to be providing appropriate end-of-life care. That this is a pretense is becoming more and more evident to patients and families.

Although Medicare guidelines require patients to have a terminal diagnosis in order to be enrolled in hospice, patients who are not terminal are fraudulently admitted.12 Sometimes patients with chronic conditions such as Alzheimer's disease or brain damage were admitted to hospice, and then they died from dehydration.13

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder." 14 Therefore, omission of nutrition and hydration that causes or hastens a patient's death must be rejected. Physicians who seek to continue providing food and fluids are often pressured not to do so. This results in patient deaths and terrible anguish for physicians.

Secular bioethical arguments are used to "justify" stealth euthanasia: for example, "poor quality of life," suggesting that the patient is "better off dead," or "respect for patient autonomy," even though many of these patients are not requesting death.

Expectations versus Reality

Traumatized families are reporting the hastened deaths of loved ones, and hospice and palliative care providers are warning that euthanasia and stealth euthanasia are sometimes being performed in end-of-life care settings. This is not surprising considering who leads the hospice and palliative care industry today. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), the leading trade organization for this industry, is the actual legal and corporate successor to the Euthanasia Society of America.15 The Euthanasia Society of America was successively known as the

Society for the Right to Die, Choice in Dying, Partnership for Caring, and Last Acts Partnership before finally being absorbed into the NHPCO. This explains the contradiction between the publicly stated hospice mission and the reality in too many clinical settings. It appears that the NHPCO is intent on quietly subverting that life-affirming mission.

The September 2000 declaration of the World Federation of Right-to-Die Societies, states in part,

We wish to draw public attention to the practice of “terminal sedation” or “slow euthanasia” which is performed extensively today throughout the world in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, and in private homes. . . . A physician may lawfully administer increasing dosages of regular analgesic and sedative drugs that can hasten someone’s death as long as the declared intention is to ease pain and suffering. . . . Compassionate physicians, without publicly declaring the true intention of their actions, often speed up the dying process in this way. 16

Indeed, the culture of death has deeply infiltrated the hospice and palliative care industry! Despite this, some health care professionals courageously remain faithful to the original mission of providing care until the natural end of life of a patient. Faithful professionals, who have a reverence for life, need support and encouragement as they serve extremely vulnerable patients.

The difficulty facing patients and their families is that they do not know how to discern which health care providers can be trusted to care and to never kill. The first question to ask when looking for a pro-life hospice or a palliative care program is does every physician and nurse reject all justifications for intentionally causing the deaths of patients? Authentic hospice involves adding resources to uphold the dignity of the patient and the sanctity of life. Yet because the average person is uneducated about their rights at the end of life, they often do not question the advice, orders, or actions of their health care professionals.

Discerning True Values

Patients who are in pain need pain relief that is safely administered and poses little or no risk of hastening death. They do not need (nor do most want) death. The culture of life promotes ethical principles that guide the appropriate and judicious use of sedatives and opioids. Practice has shown such use prolongs overall patient survival in end-of-life care settings.

On the other hand, in the culture of death, unethical practices—overdosing with opioids and “permanent sedation” with dehydration—are surreptitiously employed to deliberately end lives prematurely. Those involved maintain that their only intent is to do good (i.e., “relieve pain”). At best, they are deceiving themselves; at worst, they are lying to others. They may say, “We’re letting him go,” “His quality of life is very poor,” or “It’s her time.”

Pope John Paul II stated that “there is need to develop a deep critical sense capable of discerning true values and authentic needs.” 17 What is at stake in the struggle between the culture of life and the culture of death is our very ability to discern true values. The needs of the most vulnerable among us cannot be truly understood or met without first recognizing the sanctity of human life. What is at stake affects not only patients but also the medical profession and the whole of society. Whether practices that are knowingly used to impose death are “justified” by principles of secular bioethics or the misuse of the principle of double effect, they are always unethical. 18

The American Medical Association’s position is that “the societal risks of involving physicians in medical interventions to cause patients’ deaths are too great in this culture to condone euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide at this time.” 19 The British Medical Association is also officially opposed to euthanasia. However, the influential BMJ—a journal that is supposedly independent of the British Medical Association yet is often cited as its official voice—has taken a position in favor of euthanasia. 20 An editorial and two articles were published in BMJ supporting the purportedly “neutral” stance of health care professionals not to oppose any efforts to legalize euthanasia. However, one of the two articles, by Dr. Raymond Tallis, an emeritus professor of geriatrics, was titled “Our Professional Bodies Should Stop Opposing Assisted Dying.” 21 This makes the American Medical Association’s qualification “at this time” profoundly troubling.

Stealth euthanasia methods avoid the readily identifiable labels “euthanasia” and “assisted suicide.” Nevertheless, physicians who use their medical skills to impose death by stealth defy the American Medical Association’s official policy and are dishonest with their patients and the public.

They have been edging closer and closer to open euthanasia, but they are not there yet. In a few years, not too many, we will hear, “Everybody knows that we’ve been hastening death. Since we’re doing it anyway, let’s make it more ‘humane’—let’s legalize direct euthanasia through lethal injection.” Unless there is a major change in the health care system and in society, this is guaranteed.

About the Authors

Dr. Ralph Capone is a board-certified hospice and palliative care physician, the hospice medical director for the Jewish Association on Aging in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a part-time consultant in palliative care at UPMC McKeesport, a teacher of Catholic bioethics at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and a teacher in the physician-assistant program at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. Kenneth Stevens Jr. is a board-certified radiation oncologist, former chair and current professor emeritus in the Radiation Medicine Department at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon, and the founder and current president of Physicians for Compassionate Care Education Foundation in Yakima, Washington. Julie Grimstad has served as a patient advocate for twenty-seven years. She is a writer and speaker on end-of-life issues, editor of *Imposed Death: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*, a Human Life Alliance publication, and chair of the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, a program of the Human Life Alliance. Ron Panzer, LPN, is the founder and president of Hospice Patients Alliance, a member of the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, and a patient advocate and consultant on hospice and end-of-life care issues. He has written numerous articles and several books, which are available at <http://www.hospicepatients.org>. This article is adapted from his previously published article "Contrary to Some, Medical Killings Are Occurring in End-of-Life Care Settings," Hospice Patients Alliance, April 29, 2012, <http://www.hospicepatients.org/medical-killings-by-stealth-are-occurring-response-to-ama-article.html>.

Ethics & Medics

Defending the Dignity of the Human Person in Health Care and the Life Sciences since 1972

A Commentary of The National Catholic Bioethics Center on Health Care and the Life Sciences

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Views expressed are those of individual authors and may advance positions that have not yet been doctrinally settled. Ethics & Medics makes every effort to publish articles consonant with the magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church.

End Notes:

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- 4 Robert Jay Lifton, *The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide* (New York: Basic Books, 1986).
- 5 For a detailed outline of signs of the stages of dying, see Hospice Patients Alliance, "Signs and Symptoms of Approaching Death," <http://www.hospicepatients.org/hospic60.html>.
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- 8 Gina Kolata, "'Passive Euthanasia' in Hospitals Is the Norm, Doctors Say," *New York Times*, June 28, 1997, 10.
- 9 Timothy E. Quill and Ira R. Byock, "Responding to Intractable Terminal Suffering: The Role of Terminal Sedation and Voluntary Refusal of Food and Fluids," *Annals of Internal Medicine* 132.5 (March 7, 2000): 408–414.
- 10 Panzer, *Stealth Euthanasia*.
- 11 O'Reilly, "End-of-Life Care," emphasis added.
- 12 US Department of Justice, "Arizona Hospice to Pay \$3.7 Million to Resolve False Claims Allegations," press release, May 31, 2012, http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/2012/APR/PR_05312012_Hospice_Family_Care.html.

- 13 See Hospice Patients Alliance, "Actual Reports of Involuntary Euthanasia Cases in Hospital Settings: Eleven Letters," 2002, <http://www.hospicepatients.org/actual-hosp-euth-cases.html>; and Terri Schiavo Life and Hope Network, "Terri's Story: Timeline," <http://www.terrisfight.org/timeline/>.
- 14 Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2277. See also n. 2279: "Even if death is thought imminent, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted. The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable. Palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity. As such it should be encouraged."
- 15 Hospice Patients Alliance, "From Euthanasia Society of America to National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (1938–Present)," <http://www.hospicepatients.org/euthanasia-soc-of-america-to-natl-hosp-and-palliative-care-org.pdf>.
- 16 World Federation of Right to Die Societies, "Boston Declaration on Assisted Dying," <http://www.worldrtd.net/news/boston-declaration-assisted-dying>.
- 17 John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (March 25, 1995), n. 95.
- 18 Dianne N. Irving, "What Is 'Bioethics?'" UFL Proceedings of the Conference 2000," in *Life and Learning X: Proceedings of the Tenth University Faculty for Life Conference*, ed. Joseph W. Koterski (Washington, DC: University Faculty for Life, 2002); and John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2005).
- 19 Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs of the American Medical Association, "Decisions Near the End of Life," *JAMA* 267.16 (April 22–29, 1992): 2229–2233.
- 20 Hilary White, "British Medical Journal Campaigns for Legalized Euthanasia," *LifesiteNews.com*, June 13, 2012.
- 21 Raymond Tallis, "Our Professional Bodies Should Stop Opposing Assisted Dying," *BMJ* 344.4115 (June 13, 2012).

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT LIFE?

STEP 1 IDENTIFY YOUR AREA OF INTEREST:

Abortion
Abstinence
Adoption
Euthanasia
Stem Cell Research
Life Witness

STEP 2 IDENTIFY THE ACTIVITY THAT FITS YOU:

Education
Ministry
Action

STEP 3

REVIEW OUR LIST OF IDEAS — find one or two that you can adopt as your personal ministry goals!

Make A Difference For Life!

Ideas to help you address the Sanctity of LIFE!

Abortion
Abstinence
Adoption
Euthanasia
Stem Cell
Life Witness

Description

	Abortion	Abstinence	Adoption	Euthanasia	Stem Cell	Life Witness	Description
PRAY—Join the Anglicans for Life Prayer Team. Every quarter you will receive a calendar filled with topics to pray for such as women who are considering abortion, those who have had abortions, the elderly, handicapped, teens, families & the Anglican Church.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action
Check out www.AnglicansforLife.org for cutting-edge info, articles, publications & DVDs—visit us often. Link to our web site.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Always carry the number of the local Crisis Pregnancy Center with you or 800-712-HELP or OptionLine.org	x						ministry
Order life-affirming checks. www.HH76.org						x	action
Speak-up for the biblical value of life at all times, in all situations.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action
Ask your pastor/priest to preach on the sacredness of life. See sample sermons at AFL website: www.AnglicansforLife.org						x	education, action
Invite someone from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to share their abortion testimony at your church or home group.	x						education
Put life-affirming bumper stickers on your car or order choose life license plates if available in your state: www.choose-life.org .						x	action
Send Christmas cards that share a life-affirming message & benefit life ministry.						x	action
Set up a bassinet or basket at church to collect children's & maternity clothing for needy families or a pregnancy center.	x						ministry
Communicate with your doctors about abortion & euthanasia, sharing your value for life & asking them where they stand.						x	action
Send your pastor or Bishop life resources; ask them to declare the diocese or church to be LIFE-AFFIRMING & have on-going ministry & outreach that respects & protects life.						x	action
Post info about life events at the grocery store or community bulletin board.						x	action
Become informed about Planned Parenthood & share info with others. www.STOPP.org	x	x					education
Invite friends & priests to hear speakers discussing life issues.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action, ministry
Call in to radio talk shows or TV Shows & share facts about life or ask questions to the pro-life guest to give them more air time.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action
Request that pro-life prayers be included in church services; offer to write them or get them from AFL.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action, ministry
Invite your church leaders to join you at local or regional programs, events or activities.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action, ministry
Donate regularly to Anglicans for Life!						x	action
Learn about efforts that marginalize the terminally ill & disabled and learn arguments to defend and protect them.					x	x	education, action, ministry
Learn more about adoption services available in your area to encourage & promote adoption.			x				education, ministry
Become an AFL Life Leader & receive our monthly NewsBriefs in bulk for your church's literature rack.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action, education
Offer practical support for single parents or parents of a handicapped child, such as babysitting or relief care.						x	ministry
Pray specifically and regularly for abortionists & those involved in promoting the pro-abortion viewpoint.	x						ministry
Make up 'Surprise Satchels' for new moms, filled with baby items, diapers, booties, blankets & bottles.	x						ministry
Keep a few extra copies of <i>You're Not Alone</i> by Jennifer O'Neill to share with friends who have had abortions.	x						ministry
Send letters to hospitals that perform abortions, expressing concern for both the woman's & child's pain.	x						action
Share pro-life materials and resources with teens & college students.	x		x	x		x	education

	Abortion	Abstinence	Adoption	Euthanasia	Stem Cell	Life Witness	
Use the Anglicans for Life Newsletter and other pro-life publications to educate yourself & others on pro-life issues such as abortifacient birth control, the dangers of "Living Wills."	x		x				education
Visit a nursing home; start a program there that reaches out to the elderly, sick, or lonely in your neighborhood or parish.			x				ministry
Sponsor pro-life ads in your newspapers promoting pregnancy resource centers or outreach events.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Maintain a file of pro-life literature to pass on to friends and family.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Write to corporations, foundations, & organizations that support Planned Parenthood expressing your disappointment & the negative impact their action has on future consumers & economics.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action
Write letters to editors and news-producers in the media encouraging them to report abortion related stories accurately with both sides represented; provide them with useful facts.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Collect pro-life books, videos, tapes, magazines, etc. for your community or church library. Provide appropriate materials for your church youth groups & for Christian Education.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Volunteer to work with local, state, & national pro-life organizations on events or projects of mutual interest.	x	x	x	x	x	x	action
Encourage people to choose Advanced Directives to address the issues of euthanasia, assisted suicide & futile care. AFL recommends, "Life-Protecting Power of Attorney for Personal Care," which can be obtained at 877-439-3348.				x			education
Use the Internet (YouTube, email, FaceBook, Twitter, etc) to spread the life message, link to life affirming websites, articles, & videos.	x	x	x	x		x	education
Wear the "Precious Feet" pin that shows the baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception, order at <i>Heritage House 800-858-3040</i> .	x						education
Start an Anglicans for Life Chapter at your church, Diocese or Convocation.						x	all
Raise awareness about abortion's affect on women & men, emphasizing the healing that is available (see information on the Silent No More Awareness Campaign).	x						education
Help an existing, or start a new, Students for Life group at your local or alumni college. <i>www.StudentsforLife.org</i>						x	education
Develop a Mentoring Moms Ministry with new/experienced moms.						x	ministry
Volunteer to lead AFL's Embrace the Journey 8-week Adult Formation Class	x	x	x				ministry
Learn how to Sidewalk counsel women before they enter an abortion clinic.	x						ministry
Participate in peaceful prayer outside of an abortion facility.	x						ministry
Set up pro-life prayer group.						x	ministry
Get trained to present a message of chastity and abstinence to youth at their Sunday School program.		x					education
Educate yourself. Learn about life issues; abortion, stem cell research, euthanasia, post-abortion healing, chastity, etc. using Anglicans for Life new PROJECT LIFE curriculum.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Volunteer to lead AFL's new PROJECT LIFE Sunday School Curriculum for your church for adults & teens.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Contact like-minded church members & sympathetic clergy & offer pro-life speakers & materials or host workshops, especially in January (Sanctity of Life month), May (Mother's Day), June (Father's Day), October (Respect Life month), & November (Adoption Awareness month). Invite the public.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Encourage your church to become active in the sheltering movement for new or pregnant mothers. Collect clothes and other needed articles for mothers and their babies. Begin "play groups" for mothers and babies. Set up a baby-sitting service. Start a list of families who will host a new or pregnant mother for a short time. Contact AFL for help: 1-800-707-6635	x	x	x	x	x	x	ministry
Find out how to start a perinatal hospice in your community to support and encourage parents who have received a hard diagnosis regarding their unborn child. <i>www.TheHavenNetwork.org</i> or call 815-877-4931						x	ministry

	Abortion	Abstinence	Adoption	Euthanasia	Stem Cell	Life Witness	
Start an abortion recovery program at a Pregnancy Center or in your church & invite the leader to speak at your church.	x						ministry
Get pro-life DVDs & television programs showing on your local cable stations.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Hold a fundraising event to benefit AFL or a pro-life organization.						x	action
Establish a memorial stone/statue to the pre-born in a local cemetery or on Church grounds.	x						action, ministry
Volunteer at a Pregnancy Resource Center.	x	x	x				action, ministry
Sponsor a baby shower for a local Pregnancy Resource Center.	x	x	x				action, ministry
Sponsor a life-affirming billboard in your area -- consider a Silent No More Awareness billboard which says, "I regret my abortion," or another which says, "We regret our abortions". Both include a hotline and web site for help. www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org	x	x	x	x	x	x	action, education
Participate in a March for Life; organize a bus load of parishioners to attend on January 22 either at the state or national level.	x					x	action, education
Give a pro-life presentation at your church's adult Sunday school class.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Set up a pro-life booth at your Community Fair or Diocesan Convention/Convocation using Anglicans for Life pamphlets, brochures and booklets.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Organize a "walk-a-thon" for a pregnancy resource center or pro-life ministry.	x						action
Participate in the Spring or Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign, featuring fasting and prayer vigils outside an abortion clinic. www.40DaysforLife.org	x						action, ministry, education
Hold a rummage sale to raise funds for a Pregnancy Resource Center or life ministry such as AFL!!!						x	action
Invite a pro-life speaker to speak in your area or to your church's adult Sunday school class.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Host a booth at a community event & pass out life-affirming literature.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Ask a church group to host a fix-it jobs day for a local pregnancy center, single moms or elderly neighbors.	x						ministry
Attend an pro-life conference or sponsor a student to attend.	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Lead or participate in "Life Chain" held the first Sunday in October. Call 530-671-5500 for info.	x						action
Give roses or carnations on Mother's Day, with a note attached thanking her for giving life.							action, ministry
Sponsor a chastity/abstinence program, such as "True Love Waits," with your youth minister.		x					action, education
Encourage friends and family to get involved in life-affirming outreach	x	x	x	x	x	x	education
Use AFL "Love Offering" envelopes for a Sanctity of Life Sunday collection in church						x	action

Political Activities

VOTE! And vote for only 100% pro-life candidates. Encourage others to do the same.
Write letters/emails to your government representatives, sharing your life values.
Register voters. It's perfectly legal for churches as long as it is non-partisan. PoliticalResponsibility.org
Attend public hearings on bills affecting life & family.
Organize a Candidate Forum on life issues.
Get pro-life voter's guides into churches.
Circulate pro-life legislative petitions to get initiatives on the ballot.
Volunteer to work for a 100% pro-life candidate's campaign.
Invite your local legislator to a pro-life event as a guest or guest speaker.

PROJECT LIFE Resource List

ADOPTION AGENCIES

Bethany Christian Services, <http://www.bethany.org>, 1-888-983-0500
Catholic Charities-Adoption Agency, <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org>
Independent Adoption Center, 1-800-877-6736
Nightlight Christian Adoptions, <http://www.nightlight.org>, 714-278-1020
National Council for Adoption, 703-299-6633, 225 N Washington St,
Alexandria, Virginia, USA 22314

PREGNANCY CENTER RESOURCE LIST

OptionLine, available 24/7 for pregnancy, abortion & related issues,
1-800-385-HELP, <http://www.optionline.org>
National Life Center, for pregnant women in need of emotional or material
support, 1-800-848-LOVE (800-848-5683)
For poor prenatal diagnosis, www.benotafraid.net
Perinatal Hospice, perinatalhospice.org, for a national list of perinatal hospice
centers
Comfort, Hope, and Peace in the Midst of Pregnancy Loss, Things Eternal
booklet, 1-866-874-3829, ThingsEternal.com

POST-ABORTION COUNSELING & HEALING

Silent No More Awareness Campaign, www.Silentnomore.com
OptionLine, <http://www.optionline.org>
Rachel's Vineyard, <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org>
Abortion Recovery International Network, directory of counseling centers,
www.abortionrecoverydirectory.com
National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing,
www.NOPARH.org, 1-800-5WE-CARE
Healing Hearts Ministries, www.HealingHearts.org, 1-888-792-8282
SaveOne, www.SaveOne.org, 1-866-329-3571
Life Issues (for men), www.lifeissues.org, 513-729-3636

END OF LIFE

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, 1-800-439-3348
International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care, HospiceCare.com,
1-866-374-2472
For a national list of hospice facilities: HospiceDirectory.org

HOTLINES

Rape/Incest National Network, 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673), 24/7
support for rape & incest victims
Suicide, www.suicidehotlines.com, 1-800-784-2433
Emergency Only – 911
Child Help, meets needs of abused and neglected children, 1-800-4-A-Child,
800-422-4453, <http://www.childhelpusa.org>, <http://www.nationallifecenter.com>
National Runaway Switchboard, crisis hotline for youth, teens, and parents,
1-800-621-4000, <http://www.nrscrisisline.org>
Youth Development International Crisis Hotline, help for runaways & youth in
crisis, 1-800-HIT-HOME (800-448-4663)
AIDS/HIV Night Line, 1-800-628-9240

ADDICTIONS

Alcoholics Anonymous, has links to Adult Children of Alcoholics, Al-Anon,
AlAteen & Narcotics Anonymous <http://www.aa.org>

Local Resources

List your local programs and
contacts here.



the only Anglican/Episcopal ministry that educates, equips, and engages the Church in fulfilling Scripture's mandate to protect the vulnerable, defend the fatherless and plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:17

Our purpose is to to end abortion and euthanasia, protect embryos from research abuse, and promote abstinence and adoption. Our vision is to see every Christian in every Church doing one thing everyday to protect life.

We are a fellowship of Anglican Christians who believe:

- God values each human life and gives it purpose.
- God ordains marriage and family for the creation and nurturing of human life.
- God desires that we respect and love each person, especially the poor, the weak, and the vulnerable.
- God calls us to minister to people in ways that affirm the sanctity of human life.

Declaration of Life Statement

God, and not man, is the creator of human life. Therefore, from conception to natural death we will protect and respect the sanctity of every human life. Furthermore, we recognize that the unjustified taking of life is sinful, but God gives absolution to those who ask for His forgiveness.

Anglicans FOR LIFE encourages individuals, churches and groups to adopt this declaration so that others will know where they stand.

Prayer for Life

Lord God, thank you for creating human life in your image. Thank you for my life and the lives of those I love. Thank you for teaching us through Scripture the value you place on life. Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community. Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirmed and the elderly. Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, and never to be forgetful of respecting life. I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Acknowledgements!

The following organizations graciously granted us permission to use clips from their DVD Presentations.

North Carolina Family Policy Council - "Family Policy Perspectives"
919-807-0800, www.ncfpc.org

The Breast Cancer Prevention Institute - "ABC Link: What Every Woman has the Right to Know"
866-662-6237, www.bcpinstitute.org

Bethany Christian Services - "Letting Go"
800-Bethany, www.bethany.org

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition - "Turning the Tide: Dignity, Compassion and Euthanasia"
877-439-3348, www.euthanasiaprevention.on.ca

National Catholic Bioethics Center - "Cutting Through the Spin: On Stem Cells and Cloning"
215-877-2660, www.ncbcenter.org

Eyewitness 2: The Next Generation (fetal ultrasound images)
Sound Wave Images, Inc., 800-364-4942, www.unborn.com/window

Jill Woodliff, M.D. creator and inspiration for Opening Prayers



PROJECT LIFE

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