

# **Abortion**

By Bob Kline

## **Pre-Session Assignments**

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

### **Assignment One**

Read the comments related to Deuteronomy 30:15–20 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following question: What are the three things Moses commanded the Israelites to do in order that they may live?

### **Assignment Two**

Read the comments related to Psalm 139:13–16 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following question: Which personal pronouns (I, you, me, my, etc.) does the psalmist use to describe the formation of the child in the womb?

### **Assignment Three**

Read Colossians 2:13–15; then read the comments related to Psalm 51:14–17 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: According to this passage, what happened to the decrees against us?

### **Scripture to Memorize**

*I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.* Psalm 139:14

### **Session Goal**

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand that life is God's precious gift and should be chosen over death.

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## It's in the Book

30 minutes

### Real-Life Scenario

Brittany is a seventeen-year-old girl who has just begun her senior year of high school when she finds out she's pregnant. She is scared and embarrassed. She's not ready to be a mom yet, especially during her senior year of high school. Her boyfriend tells her to quietly get an abortion. "That'll solve the problem," he tells her. She is torn. Abortion feels wrong, but it would make things easier. Either way, she must make a choice. What should she choose?

### Choose Life

**Read** Deuteronomy 30:15–20 out loud.

### Studying the Passage

Before the Israelites possessed the land, Moses reminded them of God's law and the consequences of keeping the law or abandoning it.

**Verse 15. life . . . evil.** Obedience would lead to life and prosperity, while abandonment would lead to death and adversity. Prosperity didn't mean great riches. Rather, it meant that God would protect Israel from their enemies.

**Verse 18. perish.** On the other hand, if Israel abandoned the law of God and turned away from worshiping Him, God would remove His protection make them vulnerable to enemy attack or even destruction.

**Verse 19. choose life.** These are Moses' last words to his beloved people. He pleaded with them to choose life over death. **that.** This phrase reveals not only the means by which the end is brought about, but what the end, itself, is. **you. . . may live.** Notice that Moses did not say, choose obedience so that you may not die, but rather, choose life in order that you may live. This reveals that life itself, in obedience to God, was the highest good Moses could point them to. He wisely encouraged them to strive for the good rather than to avoid the bad.

### Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now share answers to the following question: What are the three things Moses commanded the Israelites to do in order that they may live?

### On Your Own

Choices reflect values. Financial choices reflect financial values; spiritual choices reflect spiritual values. In the space below, write some of the values reflected in choosing life as it relates to an unplanned pregnancy. In one column, write the value reflected in the choice. In the opposite column, write the value being rejected. An example is given for you.

**By choosing life, I choose to value . . .**

Taking responsibility for my choices

**over . . .**

Making my child pay for my choices

## Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Read Psalm 139:13–16 out loud.

### Studying the Passage

The psalmist described the formation of the unborn child as the work of God. While many scientists might say that gestation is a completely natural, physical process that needs no divine intervention, believers know God Himself designed the process and makes it work.

**Verse 13. inward parts.** This phrase has a dual meaning. Not only did God form the internal structures of the body, but He also gave the child intangible qualities, including personality and a spirit. God makes us who we are deep down inside.

**Verse 14. fearfully . . . made.** We are not accidents of biology, but deliberate creations that reflect a divine design and flawless craftsmanship.

**Verse 16. Your eyes . . . none of them.** God's eternal eyes saw every day of our lives before we were ever born. **Formed for me.** This word means "appointed." Ordination and appointment require purpose and intention. We are not accidents of birth that God must somehow work into His plan, but deeply loved and intended beings who fill a unique space in God's eternal plan. His intention is that people live out the number of days He intends for them.

### Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now share answers to the following question: Which personal pronouns (I, you, me, my, etc.) does the psalmist use to describe the formation of the child in the womb?

### Discussion Question

What does the use of so many personal pronouns in this passage mean to you? What is the author trying to communicate?

## A Broken and Contrite Heart

Read Psalm 51:14–17 out loud.

### Studying the Passage

What if it's too late? What if the abortion has already been performed, and now nothing is left but guilt? Can such an act ever be forgiven?

For many Christian women, the pain and guilt of a past abortion is something they carry unconfessed for the rest of their lives. Because of the goodness and grace of God, however, they don't need to. God assures us through His Word that forgiveness is always offered, and the blood of Christ is more powerful than any sin.

**Verse 14. Guilt of bloodshed.** This psalm of contrition and confession was written by King David, a man after God's own heart. David had an affair with the wife of one of his most loyal friends, and David killed him to cover it up. **A broken . . . heart.** The one who truly repents and is broken before God can find deliverance and cleansing.

### **Assignment Three Feedback**

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now share an answer to the following question: What happened to the decrees against us, according to Colossians 2:13–15?

### **On Your Own**

In the space below, write specifically what Paul said Jesus did for you by dying on the cross.

### **Heart and Hands**

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below, and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

### **Since Last Week**

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to. . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

### **Grace-Filled Accountability**

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

### **Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service**

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions, and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

### **Prayer**

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

## **At Home: Nail It Down**

The fundamental principal of Christianity is the sacredness of life. We were created to live forever in fellowship with God. Jesus Himself is the source of life (John 5:26) who came so that we would not only have life, but have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Through our sin, death entered the world (Romans 5:12). On the cross Jesus sacrificed His own life for ours. When He formed us, He did so in a way that made parents naturally sacrifice themselves for their children, if necessary. Life and self-sacrifice are found in God's nature and are divine examples for parents to imitate.

Abortion turns that example upside down. Like all of Satan's perversions, he twists the goodness of God's divine example of self-sacrifice into a corrupt, grotesque example of supreme self-indulgence. Rather than sacrifice their happiness or even their lives for the good of their children, women who have abortions (and the men who encourage them) instead choose to sacrifice their children for their own good, whatever they perceive that to be. The children pay the consequences for the sins of the parents.

As horrible and as devastating as abortion is, however, it does not nullify God's grace. Many believing women, some who were saved at the time and some who came to faith in Christ later, go through life convinced that God could never forgive them for the intentional death of their innocent child. The apostle Paul teaches, however, that where sin increased, grace abounded all the more (Romans 5:20). God's Word teaches that we are to honor life, that we are to put the good of others first, and that we were each created with loving care. His Word also teaches that for those who fall and repent, God's grace offers forgiveness and cleansing.

### **Follow up Question**

*What is the highest good God wants us to choose?*

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.