

## Family Worship Guide – Week 26

### READ

The sermon topic for this coming Sunday deals with a very sensitive but all important issue, the subject of abortion. Exact numbers are difficult to confirm, but since 1973, approximately 40,000,000 legal abortions have been performed in the United States. Obviously this isn't the easiest subject matter to discuss as a family, particularly with younger children, therefore we will trust your discretion regarding what and how much to share with your children. The overall goal of this study is not to directly address the issue of abortion but instead to celebrate the sanctity of human life. The Bible teaches that God is the creator of human life and therefore each and every life has great dignity and value.

Read Psalm 139:1-16.

Verses 13-16 teach the following truths regarding the sanctity of human life:

- *Every human life has been created by God (v. 13).* God has personally formed and knitted together each and every human life. No person is an accident or mistake. Instead, every life that has been and will be created is His doing. He is the author of all persons. Also note Job 12:10 and Isaiah 44:24.
- *Every human life has been created in the mother's womb (v. 13b).* In other words human life does not begin 3-4 months into the woman's pregnancy or once a baby is born into this world. Instead, at the moment of conception a new human person is created by God in the mother's womb. Also note Genesis 4:4 and Job 3:3.
- *Every human life is sacred and valuable (v. 14).* Since God is the author of all human life, every person is sacred. The psalmist declares the dignity and worth of all persons as he praises God for being "fearfully and wonderfully made." He goes on to proclaim that all of God's works (including the creation of human persons in the mother's womb) is "wonderful." Therefore, to deny the dignity and value of any life would be to reject God's sovereign work as creator.
- *Every day of our lives has been marvelously planned out by God (v. 16).* Before any person was conceived God had prerecorded all the details and days of his life. Therefore, once again no life or person is a mistake or accident, instead every human life has worth and is created according to God's designed plan.
- *God is deserving of the praise and adoration of every single person (v. 14).* It is utterly impossible for man to create himself. Therefore, man is completely dependent on God for his breath and life. As the psalmist was confronted with this reality he responded by giving praise and honor to the God that had formed his inward parts and knitted him together in his mother's womb. He knew that without God he would cease to exist. He owes his very life to the God that created him. The same is true for us and should lead us as well to fall to our knees and praise our Creator.

### Questions:

How does the psalmist describe God's active role in the creation of human life? How should we treat the life God has created?

According to these verses when does human life begin? Why is this important to remember?

How did the psalmist respond to the fact that God had formed him and knitted him together in his mother's womb?

Do you have the same response? Why or why not?

**Bottom Line:** Every life is sacred because God has created every life.

### PRAY

The topic of abortion is a very sensitive but all-important issue in our culture as well as the church. Exact numbers are difficult to confirm, but since 1973, approximately 40 million legal abortions have been performed in the United States alone. As we are confronted with the tragic reality of that number, not to mention the millions of other abortions worldwide, we drop to our knees and pray for God's mercy and grace. Pray that right now women across the world would choose life for their precious baby rather than death. Pray that the eyes of abortion doctors would be opened to the value and sanctity of every human life. Pray that we would be a church and a country that value life no matter how small, old or even functional. Pray that those in our church family who have either had an abortion or supported an abortion would run to Christ and find overwhelming forgiveness and mercy that is available in the glorious cross.

## SING

We chose 'There is a Fountain' this week as our Family Worship Song. Originally written by William Cowper and published in Conyer's *Collection of Psalms and Hymns* in 1772, this song is a great reminder of how, in Christ, we have lost all our "guilty stains." As we consider the tragedy of abortion this week, we should recall two important truths highlighted in 'There is a Fountain.' First, followers of Christ who have gone through the process of aborting an unborn child have lost "all their guilty stains." Jesus died on the cross, bearing the full weight of God's wrath for the sin of abortion. Secondly, we recall the sin of our own hearts, and rejoice like the thief on the cross. "Though vile as he," our debts have been paid for and we have righteousness before God through the blood of Christ.

## MEMORIZE

Psalm 139:13-14 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

## SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

### Preschool

- Before you begin, find a picture of your child as a newborn baby, or locate a picture of a baby. If you have a picture of a sonogram that would work great too.
- Read Psalm 139:13-14a.
- Explain to your preschooler t the Bible tells us God is the creator of all things. He created the world and everything in it. This means that God created them too.
- Show your child the picture of the newborn baby or sonogram. Point out how "wonderfully made" or "special" that each and every part of them is. Point to each tiny, hand, finger, foot, toe, etc.
- Explain that God made each part of them in their mother's womb to work together perfectly. Every part is put together in just the right way. God formed your fingers, which are connected to your hands and they help you to hold things. God formed your toes, which are connected to your feet and they help you to walk, run and jump. Explain to your child that only God can create such a perfectly made life. That's what it means when the Bible tells us that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." We were made by God. Only God deserves the praise for creating us. All people are special to God. God is great!
- Re-read Psalm 139:13-14a together.
- Pray and thank God, our Creator for giving us life. Praise Him and give Him the glory.

### Children

- Re-read Psalm 139:13-14.
- Object Lesson:
  - Give your child a single jar of Play-Doh and instruct them to make the most special creation they can in the next five minutes.
  - Once they have finished their creation ask them to describe what they made and why it is special.
  - Ask your child how they would feel if mommy and daddy threw their sculpture on the ground or smashed it. (Feel upset, offended, etc.)
  - Explain that they made this special creation, so to disrespect what they have made and called special would be a sin against you, the one who created it. It is the same way with what God has created.
- Reinforce the truth that every human life is made in the image of God, and God has declared them to be precious and valuable (Psalm 139:14).
- Explain that this is why Christians respect life. This is why we care for the sick when others ignore them. This is why Christians believe it is so important to treat others with dignity and respect, even if they look, speak, or live differently than we do. This is why followers of Jesus care for and protect every life, even before that person has been born from their mommy's womb.
- Form a circle as a family and have each member pray for the person to their right and thank God for His great work in making them. Praise and adore God for being the only one in the whole Universe who can create life.

## Students

- Before you begin, acknowledge to your family that we live in a time when there is a wide divergence of opinion on the matters of when life begins, when it should end, how it should end, and who is in charge. Note that this wide divergence of opinions has not always been prevalent throughout human history. The human tendency is to try to play the part of “god” in our own lives. That game always has a cost. God’s Word, however, is strikingly clear and simple. Note in these 5 summary statements from Psalm 139 the absolute language used about life.
  - **Every** human life has been created by God (v. 13).
  - **Every** human life has been created in their mother’s womb (v. 13b).
  - **Every** human life is sacred and valuable (v. 14).
  - **Every** day of our lives has been marvelously planned out by God (v. 16).
  - God is deserving of the praise and adoration of **every** single person (v. 14).
- Emphasize that God’s Word makes things clear. Read the definition of the word “every” from [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com): all, each one, without exception. The good news is that “every” includes you. Restated, the 5 summary statements include you.
  - **Your** life has been created by God (v. 13).
  - **Your** life was created in your mother’s womb (v. 13b).
  - **Your** life is sacred and valuable (v. 14).
  - **Every** day of **your** life has been marvelously planned out by God (v. 16).
  - God is deserving of **your** praise and adoration (v. 14).
- Take advantage of this opportunity to share with your family members specific ways their presence in your life has been a blessing that has caused you to praise God.
- Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the fact that everyone is created in the image of God includes everyone in your family.

## Prayer

### Lives/Church

Pray that right now women across the world would choose life for their precious baby rather than death. Pray that the eyes of abortion doctors would be opened to the value and sanctity of every human life. Pray that we would be a church and a country that value life no matter how small, old or even functional. Pray that those in our church family who have either had an abortion or supported an abortion would run to Christ and find overwhelming forgiveness and mercy that is available in the glorious cross.

### Local

**Local Church:** First Baptist Church Zion City - Johnny Waites

**Focus:** Widows First - a Christ-centered non-profit ministry that helps poor and disabled widows in the Birmingham area.

**Monday:** Pray that the twenty plus widows supported by this ministry would sense the compassion and care of Christ as they turn to and trust in Him.

**Tuesday:** Pray for more members and small groups of Brook Hills to come alongside the leaders of this ministry to help (widowsfirst@bellsouth.net).

**Wednesday:** Pray for Mike Patterson who has led this ministry for fourteen years that he will continue to have the wisdom of Christ, stamina, and resources needed to serve these widows.

**Thursday:** Pray for the gospel to advance through this ministry to the widows, their neighbors, and their extended families.

**Friday:** Pray for the families affected by the April tornado that have been helped through this ministry. Pray they will trust in Christ for their salvation and daily needs.

**Saturday:** Pray for consistent financial support for this ministry to meet the physical needs of widows who need assistance and for those coordinating the ministry.

## Scripture Memory

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:13-14

## Week 26

### There Is A Fountain

by William Cowper

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains  
Lose all their guilty stains  
Lose all their guilty stains  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day  
And there may I though vile as he  
Wash all my sins away  
Wash all my sins away  
Wash all my sins away  
And there may I though vile as he  
Wash all my sins away

Dear dying Lamb thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more  
Be saved to sin no more  
Be saved to sin no more  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounded supply  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die  
And shall be till I die  
And shall be till I die  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die

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