

## Small Group Guide THE CHILDREN YET UNBORN

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

July 3, 2011

Psalm 139:13-16

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

### Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

**Welcome**—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

**Review**—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

**Prayer**—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

### Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

#### Sermon Outline

### THE CHILDREN YET UNBORN

Psalm 139:13-16

#### Abortion...

- In the United States...
  - Over 45 million abortions have occurred since 1973.
  - 1.4 million abortions occur every year; 3,000 abortions occur every day.
  - A woman has an abortion approximately every 20 seconds.
  - One third of American women have an abortion at some point in their lives.
- In the world...
  - 46 million abortions occur every year; 130,000 abortions occur every day.
  - A woman has an abortion almost every second of every day.

#### Abortion and God...

- Abortion is an affront to God's sovereign authority as Creator.
  - He is the Giver of life.
  - He is the Taker of life.
- Abortion is an assault on God's glorious work in creation.
  - The way God creates people compels praise.
    - The womb contains a person formed in the image of God.

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- If the unborn is not human, no justification for abortion is necessary.
- If the unborn is human, no justification for abortion is adequate.
  - Though the unborn is visibly hidden from man, he/she is never hidden from God.
- All of God's works are wonderful.
  - Even (or especially) in the case of disability.
  - Even (or especially) in the midst of difficulty.
- Abortion is an attack on God's intimate relationship with the unborn.
  - He fashions them (Job 31:15).
  - He values them (Exodus 21:22-25).
  - He relates to them (Psalm 22:9-10).
  - He knows them (Jeremiah 1:5).
  - He anoints them (Luke 1:15).
  - He calls them (Isaiah 49:1).
  - He sets them apart (Galatians 1:15).

#### Abortion and the Gospel...

- God is the Judge of sin.
  - Mothers who have aborted babies.
  - Fathers who have encouraged abortion.
  - Grandparents who have supported abortion.
  - Doctors who have performed abortion.
  - Leaders who have permitted abortion.
    - Government is given by God for the good of people.
    - Government is given by God for the legislation of morality.
  - Christians who have done nothing about abortion.
- God is the Savior of sinners.
  - He forgives entirely.
  - He heals deeply.
  - He restores completely.
  - He redeems fully.

#### Abortion and the Church...

- Look around...
  - Learn the facts about abortion.
  - See the pictures of abortion.
  - Listen to the victims of abortion.
- Step forward...
  - Share your burdens from the past with brothers and/or sisters.
  - Share your struggles in the present with brothers and/or sisters.
- Speak up...
  - Before God.
  - Before the government.
- Reach out...
  - Through giving to pro-life causes and ministries.
  - Through serving unwed and under-age mothers.
  - Through volunteering at pregnancy centers.
  - Through supporting abortion alternatives.
  - Through adopting unwanted children.

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#### **Message Summary**

*Based on Psalm 139:13-16, Dr. Platt's sermon focused on the worldwide problem of abortion—how prevalent it is, how it is a complete affront to God in His sovereignty, how it relates to the gospel, and how the Church must respond to it. Dr. Platt began by sharing heart-gripping statistics about the number of abortions that occur in the United States and across the world. He then related the act of abortion to God—stating that abortion is not a political issue but a God issue. Because God is our Creator—the giver of life, abortion is an affront to God's authority and assaults His glorious work in creation. By looking at the fundamental question, "Is what is in the womb a person?" and by answering, "Yes," the very image of God is present in unborn children. Dr. Platt further showed that abortion is an attack on God's intimate relationship with the unborn, citing various Scriptures that reveal God's constant connection with humans still in the womb. Because God is the judge of sin, and taking another's life is sin, mothers, fathers, grandparents, doctors, and leaders who have had, encouraged, or performed abortions are held responsible, as well as the Christians who have done nothing to stop it. Because God graciously saves sinners, complete forgiveness, healing, restoration, and redemption is available to all of us. The next steps the Church must take include learning the truth about what is going on, stepping forward to share their own experiences and help those who are hurting, speaking up before God in prayer and before the government who permits abortion, and reaching out by supporting pro-life causes, abortion alternatives, and the adoption of unwanted children.*

#### **Discuss**

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- How has your understanding of abortion changed as you have listened to this message?
- What was your response to the statistics from the beginning of the message?
- Read Psalm 139:13-16. How do these verses challenge the way you value God as your Creator as well as the Creator of the unborn?
- As you read through the verses about God's relationship with the unborn—Job 31:15; Exodus 21:22-25; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 22:9-10; Isaiah 49:1; and Luke 1:15—consider which words stand out to you and enhance your understanding of God?
- How do these verses deepen the way you value God's work in the womb? Do you see any errors in your thinking based on God's Word?
- It can be easy to blame people directly involved in abortion and even those passing laws to protect the act, but how does the fact that God is the judge of Christians who have done nothing about abortion prompt your heart?
- Have you had any experiences related to an abortion that you feel comfortable sharing? How did those experiences shape your view of God and humanity?
- What lies are at the root of abortion?
- What does it mean to "look around" with eyes wide open to the reality of abortion?
- In what ways can you "step forward" and share with others?
- Take a moment to "speak up" before God as you close your group today in prayer.
- After praying together, consider ways your group can "reach out" through giving, serving, volunteering, supporting, and adopting. Make plans to get involved.

#### **Respond . . .**

*Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:*

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?

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- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

### ***Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from the worship guide)***

- ***Church:*** Pray that we would be a church and a country who values life no matter how small, old, or even functional.
- ***Local:*** This week we are praying for the ministry of Widows First, a Christ-centered non-profit ministry based on James 1:27 and 1 Timothy 5:3-8. We are also praying for First Baptist Church Zion City, Johnny Waites, Pastor.
- ***Global:*** This week we are praying for our Long-Term Missionaries Gary and Elizabeth Wilkins, serving in Angola, Namibia, and Botswana. We are also praying for Brook Hills teams in New York City, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.