

November 20th, Conceived for Preeminence
Part 10 in the series 'Human'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Why do you think some mothers (and other people) choose to give their life to save someone else?

"What I believe is entirely my responsibility; what you believe is entirely none of my business."
What do you think of that idea?

In the Bible, pregnancy was often a sign of God's blessing. Why do you think God shows His blessing that way?

Read 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."

What does that verse imply about the value of humans in the womb?

There are severe consequences for interfering with fertilized eggs of other species. What does this imply about the value of creatures before they are born?

Why is the mother's hardship a dangerous reason to abort a child?

Can you think of stories in the Bible or in your own life where God brought something great out of something evil?

If you could go back in time and kill (or abort) Adolf Hitler, would you? Why or why not?

Some people say that abortion is a slippery slope into discarding other human lives. Do you think that is the case? Why or why not?

If every human life is valuable, then is the Bible against capital punishment?

Read Genesis 9:6

“Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.”

Read Numbers 35:30–31

"Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. Do not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer, who deserves to die. They are to be put to death.”

How do these passages either affirm or negate the value of human life?

There are those who believe abortion is wrong, but do not believe it should be against the law. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

*Note to small group leader: There are two verses in the Old Testament that are commonly cited by those who support abortion to call into question the idea of the value of human life in the womb.

One passage is Exodus 21:22-25, which refers to what should happen if someone strikes a pregnant woman causing her to give birth prematurely. Some English translations render the Hebrew "so that she miscarries." This is a poor translation of the Hebrew. The original Hebrew uses a different word to describe miscarriage or stillbirth in many other parts of the Old Testament, and in describing birth commonly uses the same word used in this passage. So this passage is not referring to miscarriage, but to giving birth prematurely.

For a more thorough treatment of this issue, here are a couple resources:

<https://apologeticspress.org/abortion-and-exodus-21-1430/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Exodus-21-22-23-abortion.html>

The other passage abortion advocates often cite is Numbers 5:11-28. Two popular English translations of this passage (the NIV and NRSV) use the word "miscarriage" in the text. This is a poor translation of the original Hebrew. The Hebrew verbiage throughout this passage does not in any way imply the condition of pregnancy and refers only to the "abdomen swelling" and the "thigh dropping", which is not used anywhere else in the Old Testament (or any other ancient Hebrew texts) to describe a miscarriage. Compare these other translations of Numbers 5:21:

ESV: "...your thigh fall away and your body swell.”

NASV: “making your thigh waste away and your abdomen swell;”

NJB: "making your sexual organs shrivel and your belly swell!"

NASB: "making your thigh waste away and your abdomen swell;"

NKJV: "makes your thigh rot and your belly swell;"

Use Bible Hub, Bible Gateway, or other online Bible resources to compare dozens of other translations.

For more thorough treatment on this issue, here are a couple links:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Numbers-abortion.html>

From Hebrew scholar Chad Bird: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-IOI_GK0T-GK1C&v=1016607095665093.