

ABORT! ABORT! ABORT!
Sermon Series: Truth — How Do You Know It When You Hear It?
Next Steps Devotional Guide
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Instructions: This devotional guide can be used individually, by families or in a small group as a way to reinforce the biblical truth you learned from the sermon. If you are using this at home, spread the points throughout the whole week. If you are using this in a small group, divide people up into sub-groups to discuss and share and bring them back to the whole group to share. Do not force anyone to share. Be sure to pray in your group.

1. Read Jesus' words in John 8:32 in your sermon notes. Freedom does come from knowing what is true and what is false. Sometimes, the truth hurts, or frustrates, or angers or challenges or stresses before it frees. When and where have you seen this to be true?
2. Since the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1973 in the case Roe vs. Wade, nearly 63.5 million innocent American babies have been aborted.¹ The number one reason given by women who have had an abortion is "inconvenience." The NY Times reported that 1 in 4 women in America have had an abortion.² That is 25% of all women. Have you ever known a woman or a family that has experienced abortion? What was your reaction?
3. When it comes to this issue of abortion, people tend to get stuck on one primary emotion though they may or will experience all kinds of emotions. What is your primary emotion and why?
4. When the issue of abortion comes up, some people either say or do nothing at all. Why do you think even some Christians have this kind of reaction and what do you think about it?
5. The world views some people and even some Christians' reaction to any woman who has had an abortion as one that is judgmental, filled with mixed messages, explosive rage and anger. Have you ever been around someone whose reaction was this? If so, how did everyone respond, including yourself?
6. As Christians we need to find an evenness from Scripture that helps us with whatever emotional reaction we have. The world is looking for hope. We need guidance from God's Word that encourages and strengthens us to deal with the issue of abortion. What is that balance and how does a Christian know they have it when it comes to this issue of abortion?
7. You were presented four different sources people choose from to talk about in the abortion debate. Some use only one and others use a combination. Look over the list in your sermon notes. Which ones have you used and why? Were they effective or ineffective? Why?
8. Read Psalm 139:13-14 in your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, *"What Does Scripture Have To Say About Abortion?"* Scripture affirms that an unborn child is a living, human being. Pastor and author R.C. Sproul writes: *"The fetus is either alive or not alive. The fetus is either human or not human. The fetus is either a person or not a person."*³ Christian author and radio personality Gregory Koukl writes: *"If the unborn is not a human person, no justification for abortion is necessary . . . [But] If the unborn is a human person, then no justification for abortion is adequate."*⁴ His point is: if what is in the womb is not human, then justification for an abortion is unnecessary. What do you think and why?
9. Look over the acronym — SLED — in your sermon notes under point #1 by Scott Klesendorff⁵ under the heading, *"What Does Scripture Have To Say About Abortion?"* How can this help you or anyone in a honest discussion about abortion?
10. Read Genesis 1:26, Genesis 9:6, Genesis 25:22a and Psalm 51:5 in your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *"What Does Scripture Have To Say About Abortion?"* How do these passages help you in a discussion about abortion and why?
11. Christian author Randy Alcorn writes: *"Each person has a sinful nature from the point of conception. Who but an actual person can have a moral nature? Rocks and trees and animals and human organs do not have moral natures, good or bad."*⁶ Why do you think people who support abortion do not see it this way?
12. If someone does not go to the defense of the unborn, who will? The unborn need our protection for life from our legal system and Scripture. Read Exodus 23:7, Proverbs 16a & 17b, and Proverbs 24:11-12 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *"What Does Scripture Have To Say About Abortion?"* Some people claim ignorance or a lack of information or some other excuse for not engaging in the abortion debate. What do these verses tell you about engaging in this debate and what do you plan to do as a result?
13. Pastor and Christian author David Platt writes: *"If it's not right for people to discard girls in China or India for the sake of their convenience, then why is it right for us to discard children in America for the sake of ours? . . . This is not only an issue when it comes to the sex of a child but also when it comes to disability in children . . . We aren't*

¹ <https://www.nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS01AbortionintheUS.pdf>.

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/12/14/upshot/who-gets-abortions-in-america.html>.

³ R. C. Sproul, *Abortion: A Rational Look At An Emotional Issue*, p. 57.

⁴ Gregory Koukl, *Precious Unborn Human Persons*, p. 7.

⁵ Scott Klesendorff, *The Case For Life*, p. 28.

⁶ Randy Alcorn, *Why Pro-Life?*, Kindle Location 3,070.

*pro-choice about rape. And we aren't pro-choice about burglary. We aren't pro-choice about kidnapping children."*⁷ Why do you think people do not see the discrepancy and hypocrisy he points out?

14. Even states can have conflicting laws that create all kinds of confusion about abortion. Randy Alcorn writes: *"At the Medical University of South Carolina, if a pregnant woman's urine test indicates cocaine use, she can be arrested for distributing drugs to a minor . . . That taking these drugs while pregnant is a felony gives explicit recognition of the unborn as a person with rights, deserving protection even from his mother . . . In America today it's illegal to harm your pre-born child, but it's perfectly legal to kill her."*⁸ Why do you think states allow for this ambiguity and what are the consequences?
15. Here is another startling truth about the ambiguity in our laws: *"If a pregnant woman gets in her car to drive to the abortion clinic and, while driving there, a drunk driver hits the car and kills her baby, that driver gets charged with homicide."*⁹ Yet, it is politicians who have passed these laws that create this frustration and angst. Our culture has become one that uses individual rights and personal choice as an argument to justify just about everything. Scott Klesendorf writes: *"In the past, we used to discriminate on the basis of skin color and gender (and still do at times), but now, with elective abortion, we discriminate on the basis of size, level of development, location, and degree of dependency."*¹⁰ What do you think about these two quotes and how can we as committed Christians bring some sanity, some balance and some clarity for the sanctity of life?
16. Read Exodus 21:22-25 in your sermon notes in point #3 as well as the explanation for the Hebrew words for "miscarriage" and "premature birth" under the heading, *"What Does Scripture Have To Say About Abortion?"* This passage is often quoted by those who endorse abortion because many translations translate it to say "miscarriage" or "abortion." With this translation, it gives the impression that God does not value life in the womb. Nothing could be further from the truth. The first part of this verse refers to "premature birth." The last part of the verse refers to a miscarriage. In this case, the one who caused a miscarriage in the context of two men fighting and causing injury to a woman so she miscarries, they are to be put to death. Why do you think God was so firm about the punishment for this reason?
17. It is clear in Scripture that an unborn child has a God-given and God-preordained purpose. You were given 5 people from Scripture that demonstrate this. Now use your imagination: what if all of these had been aborted. What do you think would have been the impact or loss of impact on the world, the church, Christianity and yourself?
18. Less than .5% abortions are due to rape. That means the other 99.5% is for other reasons. For example, the state of Florida keeps records not only on the number of abortions but the why's. And when females fill out the forms in Florida, the box they check the most for why they are having an abortion, 74.9% check the box that says "no reason." When pressed further, these women said the father of the child or her peers or her parents were pressuring her to get an abortion. Other reasons checked in other states nationally is: can't afford a baby (23%); not ready for a child (25%); would interfere with my career or education (4%).¹¹ What do these stats tell you about our culture's view of life? Do you think this has any impact on the increase in homicides, murders, school shootings, and rapes? Why or why not?
19. The church is often known for what we are against. It's time we are known for what we not against. Pregnant women considering abortion need help. You were given 3 ways you can help and support women contemplating abortion. Which of these 3 will you personally do and why?
20. A second way the church can show what we are for is that pregnant women considering abortion need to be loved, not judged, and receive godly care and counsel. Care Net Pregnancy Centers do just this. *"Over a six-year period Care Net pregnancy centers provided 579,322 free ultrasound scans, 1.8 million free pregnancy tests, and 723,597 individuals received parenting support and education."*¹² Pregnant women need to know that adoption is an option. In one report it was estimated that *"as many as 1.3 million couples are waiting to adopt a child. Yet almost the same number of children are being killed by abortion each year."*¹³ What could you do to help a woman who was considering abortion to also consider giving her baby up for adoption?
21. When a woman is considering abortion, the third way to help is these women need the support of the church and family. Of all places for a pregnant woman considering abortion to feel safe, it should be the church. How can we make such a woman feel safe at our church? There are orphanages and millions of children who need to be adopted. There are many Bible verses that tell us to care for the orphan (ex., James 1:27; Psalm 82:3; Exodus 22:22-23; Zechariah 7:9-10; and Isaiah 1:17 to name a few. What could you do to help?
22. A fourth way we can help a woman who has had an abortion is by making sure she has all the information or news about it. You were given 3 "news items" with corresponding verses. How could you take news #1 and its verse, news #2 and its verse, and news #3 and its verse and help a woman who has had an abortion?
23. Read Isaiah 1:17 in your sermon notes in point #4 under the heading, *"What Does Scripture Have To Say About Abortion?"* How can you personally and our church do this?

⁷ David Platt, *Counter Culture*, pp. 94-95, 100.

⁸ Randy Alcorn, *Why Pro-Life?*, Kindle Location 604.

⁹ Russell Moore & Andrew Walker, *The Gospel & Abortion*, Kindle Location 493.

¹⁰ Scott Klesendorf, *The Case For Life*, p. 66.

¹¹ https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/.

¹² Randy Alcorn, *Why Pro-Life?*, Kindle Location 1,153.

¹³ Randy Alcorn, *Why Pro-Life?*, Kindle Location 2,597.