

The Sanctity of Life Psalm 139:13-16

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Life is the _____ of God; and because God gives it, life is precious! Today, we're going to explore the sanctity of life! James 1:17 says that God is the _____ of every good and perfect thing. I'm grateful for the written Word that _____ us about all that God has done for us. His Word teaches us, protects us from evil, and guides us to eternal life. Oh, what a blessing!

In 1970, a Texas woman became pregnant and decided to _____ the antiabortion legislation of her state. Using the pseudonym Jane Roe, she took Henry Wade, the Dallas District Attorney, to court. The case eventually went to the Supreme Court in January, 1973, and is now known as Roe vs. Wade. The Supreme Court ruled 7 to 2 that the Texas law banning abortion was unconstitutional. Its judgment inhibited all regulation of abortion during the first three months of pregnancy; and during the second and third trimesters, it regulated it only in relation to the mother's physical or mental health. This ruling implicitly permitted abortion on _____ at every stage of pregnancy. In 2014, the latest year for these statistics, 954,000 babies were aborted. That's 2,614 per day, 109 per hour, and three since I began speaking.

So, dealing with an _____ pregnancy is tough; it's indeed complex; it's emotional. It has physical, social, medical, psychological, and spiritual considerations. Sadly, many have chosen to _____ the pregnancy by removing the life within. They appeal to national law and to changes in culture, but we know there is a higher _____ and a greater _____ to which we must all give an account. So, we ask, "What principles can we find in the Bible? And what does God say about _____ in the womb?"

Our reading today is from a Psalm of David, Psalm 139:13-16.

In the beginning, God made man in His own _____ and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. **Read what God said in Genesis 1:26-27.** We should note that of all His _____ God regarded only man as made in His own image.

For this reason God said, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man" (Genesis 9:6). God has a very high _____ of life and _____ the taking of human life because of our relationship to God. Psalm 8 reminds us that God is "mindful of man." Every person, male or female, young or old, handicapped or whole, mentally challenged or not, diseased or not, has a _____ life. In fact, Acts 17:28 says "we are His _____." Luke 3:38 calls Adam the "_____ of God." Hebrews 12:9 helps us to understand our relationship with God. It says, "Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be _____ to the Father of spirits, and live?" Yes, God is our heavenly Father.

The Scriptures also record how God _____ and _____ for little children. Abortion

proponents argue that the taking of a preborn child's life is not wrong since the unborn do not _____ up to the definition of a viable person. A person to them is "one who has good mental and physical health and the ability to socialize." In their minds, the fetus would not measure up. The Scriptures, however, view infants and children as a _____ from God. Psalm 127:3 says, "Behold, children are a _____ of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward." God provided laws to _____ unborn children. In Exodus 21:22-25 God penalizes those who would _____ a miscarriage. The life of the unborn would call for the life of one who caused the miscarriage.

The Hebrew word used in the Old Testament to refer to the unborn in Exodus is *yeled*, a word that "generally indicates young children, but may refer to teens or even young adults." The Hebrews did not have a need of a _____ word for unborn children. They were just like any other children, only younger. In the Bible, there are references to born children and unborn children, but there is no such thing as a potential, incipient, or "almost" child.

Jesus loved little children and _____ them. **Read what the Bible says in Luke 18:15-16.** Jesus spoke of these little ones as persons belonging to the _____ of God. The Greek New Testament uses the word "brephos" to describe these little children. It's significant that the New Testament uses the same word to describe an _____ child as is used to describe a little child, the word "brephos." This word is used to speak of John the Baptist who _____ in his mother's womb in Luke 1:41 and also verse 44. This word "brephos" is used to speak of Jesus as a _____ baby in Luke 2:12, also in verse 16. We speak of a woman having a baby before birth and a baby after birth. The Scriptures use the same words in both the Old Testament and the New Testament to describe the unborn and a baby who has been born.

The Scriptures also speak of God's _____ in what takes place in the womb. In Psalm 22:9-10 David says, "Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb." Samson told Delilah in Judges 16:17, "A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and be like any other man." God said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). Paul proclaimed that God "set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace" (Galatians 1:15). The Father of spirits has taken life in the womb seriously, and so should we.

David described God's work in the womb in Psalm 139:13-16 (our text). We should never think that God somehow doesn't _____ what the unborn are or what they are to become.

To take a life is to _____ a person of it's existence on earth; abortion ends the life that already is and robs the life that is to be. When people _____ for others who lives and who dies, they presume the place of God. Women make most abortion decisions during a very _____ time in their lives, but no one knows what the future will hold. Who knows what some child will become? We must not presume that we know. The Scriptures speak of some ill-timed pregnancies. For

instance, both Sarah and Elizabeth were too _____ to have children without God's help. If they had not had children, where would Isaac and John the Baptist be? If Jesse and his wife had thought seven sons were enough, there would have been no David. If Deborah or Esther's parents had wanted boys and aborted them because they were girls, where would Israel be?

There have been 58 million, 586 thousand, 256 abortions since 1973! Were all those aborted babies _____ of life? Were there no scholars, no musicians, no scientists, no authors, no preachers, no leaders, and no doctors among them? Where would _____ be if your parents had some reason to abort you?

Abortion interferes with God's _____ in the making of a person. A fetus in a woman's body is not just tissue, not mere tissue, or only the product of conception. Nobody _____ the loss of tonsils, or an appendix, or a gall bladder. We may not like the pain or the bills from those surgeries, but we don't need comfort and we don't grieve over the loss of tonsils. But, when a woman has a miscarriage, we mourn for her _____ and we mourn for the unborn child. More than one in my own family has lost a child due to a miscarriage or to a death shortly after birth. If this loss isn't a person, why would we mourn?

By the time a mother knows that she's pregnant, an unborn baby has its _____ circulatory and nervous systems. Blood cells, kidney cells, and nerve cells are developing already. By eight weeks, eyes and ears begin to form. Arms and legs are beginning to grow. The heart is beating, and the blood regularly streams through the main vessels. The brain continues to grow, and the lungs start to form. The baby is not some _____ organ; this is the beginning of a unique person.

Sometimes I hear mothers say, "Well, it's _____ body, and I can do with it what I want to." Technically speaking, the tissue of a fetus _____ from the mother's tissue, even though it's in her body. Genetically speaking, the baby and the mother are clearly not _____ in their DNA. Consider also that a mother is always female. She is certainly different both biologically and genetically should the baby be a male. Milk is the product of a mother, but a fetus is the product of _____ the mother and of the father; a product of his body resides in her body that creates a new person. That's why we have paternity lawsuits. The new baby is the result of the _____ of two people. So, women do not produce babies alone.

When someone won't admit that abortion is wrong, she may say, "Well, you can't legislate _____." I like how Martin Luther King responded to this charge against legislating morals. He said, "We hear the familiar cry that morals can't be legislated. This may be true, but _____ can be regulated. The law may not be able to make a man _____ me, but it can keep him from lynching me." We need to remember that man's legislation does not _____ God's morals.

Many women think aborting a baby will be the _____ to their problems, only to realize that abortion opens up a whole new stack of issues and problems. Having an abortion can _____ a person for life. One lady wrote in 1994, "Women undergoing abortion have no idea what _____ they will encounter after the abortion, and daily for the rest of their lives, and when it suddenly dawns on them that they chose to extinguish a _____ life. Twenty-three

years ago, as a frightened young girl, alone, seeing no way out; I opted for a legal abortion that left me infertile to suffer an eternal hell on earth, constantly aching for a child of my own to nurture. Taking the life of an unborn child eats away at your _____ continually, like a ravenous cancer, causing one to pray for a quick demise. You will always _____ if the fetus was male or female, what he or she would look like. Yearly, you will mournfully recall the day your baby was taken from your body. If only one had mentioned adoption to me as a viable alternative to a temporary condition, my child would be alive today, perhaps making a difference in someone's life."

According to a study published in 2011 by Britain's Royal College of Psychiatrists, women who have abortions are 81 percent more likely to experience subsequent mental health problems. The greatest increases were seen in relation to suicidal behaviors and substance abuse. Their results came from 22 studies of nearly 900,000 women from six countries over a twelve-year period. They found that women who delivered an unplanned pregnancy were significantly less likely to have mental health problems than similar women who aborted unplanned pregnancies. Women with a history of abortion were 55 percent more likely to have mental health problems than women who gave birth.

God desires that every unmarried young man and young woman remain sexually _____. A sexually pure person doesn't have to _____ the challenge of an unwanted pregnancy. If you find yourself with an unwanted pregnancy, my heart goes out to you. I pray that you'll not choose an abortion as a way out. As a parent of four and the grandparent of twelve, I know the sacrifices and the challenges of bringing children into this world. If you're unable or unwilling to rear a child, others will gladly _____ that child and can provide what's needed. Oh, choose life; give your child an opportunity to learn about God and to love; and allow some Christian family to make a home for your child. You'll never regret doing the right thing.

As a minister, I've counseled women who gave in to the _____ to abort their child as a quick solution to a difficult circumstance. Once they realize what they have done, some think that they cannot find _____. Yes, what you did was _____. You can't _____ the past, but there is still hope. Christ sacrificed His life on the cross for you to give us _____. His blood is powerful enough to cleanse the worst of sins. If Jesus could _____ that worst of sinners, Saul of Tarsus, He can forgive you.

Read what Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1:15-16. Oh, God's grace is greater than our _____. His blood can wash us clean! We can't change the past, but God can forgive us and no longer hold us accountable for our sins.

So, put your trust in Christ! Repent and turn away from that old sin and focus on serving the Lord. When we humble ourselves and we come lovingly and penitently to the Lord, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and we're baptized, God washes away our sins in baptism with the blood of Jesus. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, "Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16). By being born of water and the spirit, you can be born again! The old person of sin will have died; it was crucified with Christ and you are free from sin. That takes place in baptism (Romans 6:3-7). God can forgive you!