

Fetal Development, Abortion, and Building a Culture of Life

Sample Outline

DAY ONE

- 1) Welcome and Roadmap
 - a) Day One: Fetal Development and Abortion
 - b) Day Two: Resources and real-life scenarios focused on helping those in need
 - c) Questions on index card
- 2) Fetal Development
 - a) Fertilization
 - i) Began as a single cell called a **zygote**
 - ii) You were **distinct**: 23 chromosomes from mom and 23 chromosomes from dad
 - iii) You were **genetically complete**: 30,000 genes (all that you'd ever have)
 - (1) Genes help determine traits
 - iv) You **were self-directing**: your biology was guiding *unique* journey, distinct from mom's
 - b) **We use different names to describe levels of development** in the womb and out
 - i) Zygote, blastocyst, embryo, fetus, infant, toddler, adolescent, adult... all human
 - c) SLED: four key differences between you as a zygote and you now
 - i) **Size, Level of Development, Environment, Degree of Dependency**
 - ii) Human **dignity is consistent** across differences, inside and out of the womb
 - d) Trimester One (**formation**)
 - i) 2 Weeks: implant in uterus
 - ii) 3-4 Weeks: heart began beating
 - iii) 4 Weeks: 10,000x larger than day one
 - iv) 8 Weeks: all organs present
 - v) 10-12 Weeks: ultrasounds typical
 - (1) 2-D and 3-D ultrasounds
 - e) Trimester Two (**synchronization**)
 - i) 14-20 Weeks: feel kicks
 - ii) 20 Weeks: all pain receptors present
 - iii) 23 Weeks: "viable"
 - f) Trimester Three (**growth**)
 - i) GROWTH! Up to 10-11 pounds. Average of 7.5
 - ii) "Flip" Head-Down

- iii) Labor and delivery: “good pain” ordered toward goal
- iv) Caveat: Miscarriage

(segue) Fact 1: Life begins at fertilization – all part of beautiful design of human life; we will now discuss an action that goes AGAINST this design

3) Abortion

a) Fact Two (**definition**): the **intentional termination of a human pregnancy**

- (1) Methods: surgical and chemical
- (2) **Prevalence**: 67 million since abortion became legal (138 seasons of Notre Dame Football stadium being filled to capacity, six games each year)

b) How did we get here?

- (1) **Laws: Purpose is ordered toward human flourishing and protection**, especially most vulnerable

(2) **Just v. Unjust Laws**

(3) Key Court Cases

(a) *Roe v. Wade (1973)* allowed abortion based on trimesters

- (i) Trimester One: any reason; left to privacy of woman and doctor
- (ii) Trimester Two: regulate only to impact woman’s health (i.e. abortion must take place in a hospital)
- (iii) Trimester Three: regulate in the interest of the “potential life”

(b) *Doe v. Bolton (1973)* opened up abortion all the way to birth if

- (i) Health of mother (physical, psychological, familial, etc.)
- (ii) Likely to be born with permanent disability
- (iii) Rape or incest

(c) *Dobb’s v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization (2022)* reversed course and sent power to States

- (i) citing it is not in the power of judicial branch to MAKE laws, only judge them
- (ii) Sent back to the States to make decisions
 - 1. Indiana has some of the strictest regulations (abortions limited to fatal fetal abnormality, life of mother, rape/incest < 10 weeks)
 - a. Neighboring states permit abortion broadly
 - b. Work to change culture so women don’t feel they need abortion

c) Wrap-Up

- i) Fact One: life begins at fertilization
- ii) Fact Two: abortion ends a human pregnancy
- iii) Question: Is it wrong to end an innocent human life?

- iv) Back tomorrow to talk about this big question, why it matters, and how we are called to help protect amazing gift of life.

DAY TWO

- 4) Day One Recap
 - a) Additional questions
- 5) Big Question: Is it wrong to intentionally end an innocent human life?
 - a) Fact One: **life begins at fertilization**
 - b) Fact Two: **Abortion is the intentional termination of a human pregnancy**
 - c) Conclusion: **If Fact One and Fact Two hold true and we believe it is wrong to end an innocent human life, abortion is wrong.**
- 6) What about **exceptional cases**?
 - a) Life of Mother?
 - b) Disability?
 - c) Conceived in act of violence?
 - d) Answer of pro-life movement: love them both.
- 7) **What is it like to be in a crisis?** (thought experiment)
- 8) Resources
 - a) **Post-Abortion:** Project Rachel; She Found His Grace
 - b) **Pregnancy Resource Centers:** Women's Care Center; RETA; LifePlan
 - c) **Maternity Homes:** Hannah's House
 - d) **Community Resource Navigation:** HerMichiana
- 9) Scenario
 - a) **LISTEN**
 - b) **Don't push** for too much information; **don't jump to fix** too quickly
 - c) **Tunnel vision**
 - d) Direct to resources; **make a PLAN**
 - e) **"I am here for you"**
- 10) What can I do?
 - a) **Gratitude; thank mom and dad!**
 - b) **Be ready to love them both**
 - c) **Volunteer**
 - d) **Peaceful demonstration**
 - e) **Pray**
- 11) Not the same without **YOU**