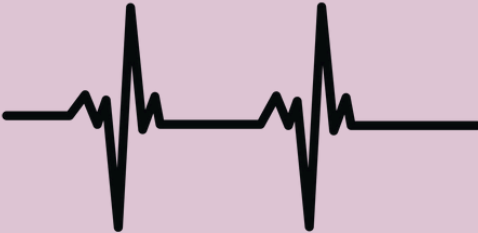



Generation

LIFE 

YOUTH GROUP
CURRICULUM

LEADERS GUIDE

Generation

LIFE 

LEADER GUIDE

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HELLO AND WELCOME!

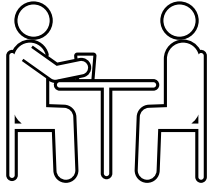
We are so glad you decided to use our curriculum to educate young people about life-affirming topics and to contribute to a culture of life. Through this guide, you will have general guiding questions and activities to engage your group or club. You are welcome to use the guide as a whole or just select specific topics. Depending on your audience and time constraints, you can also add to or take away from each topic. A note section is available at the end of each topic for the participants use.

We hope that you find this life-affirming curriculum to be encouraging and inspiring!

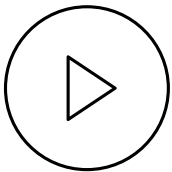
Together, we can inspire the new generation to transform our culture!

For Life,
Generation Life
An initiative of Life Culture Canada

GENERAL GUIDE FOR EACH TOPIC



DISCUSS - Break into groups for discussion. Take time to answer questions and clear up any information your groups may be confused about. Continue discussions until conversation is slowing down. Approx. 10-15 min



VIEW - Videos are used to supplement the topic. Feel free to go into further discussion depending on how the video is received. Since these videos do deal with heavier subjects, debriefing may be necessary. As some video content may be sensitive for some viewers, give adequate disclaimers before each video.



ENGAGE - Create an interactive quiz (ex. Kahoot, Slido) or collaboratively come up with group ideas. Extra activities to help your group may be added to any section you feel necessary. For your convenience, check out our Kahoots to engage your group.



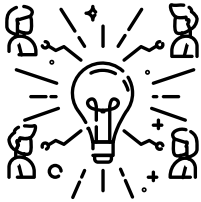
WRITE - At the end of each topic in this guidebook, there will be a page that can be reproduced and used for participant's use. Writing goals can be a way to solidify an idea or concept, but their doing so is not mandatory for the lesson.



RESOURCES - There may be suggestions for additional resources. Resources are mainly for your further research as the facilitator, but could be used to share with your group. These resources can be found in the back section of the guidebook.

Be flexible in your schedule and the way you present, depending on your audience. Feel free to add notes to your Leader Guide or take out a certain slide in the presentation. Always introduce the topic with care of your audience in mind. Participants may have personal experiences that shape their view. We encourage you to remain life-affirming in the most compassionate way.

A LIFE-AFFIRMING WORLDVIEW



Read the scripture below as a group, allowing different people to read certain sections and making everyone feel included.

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

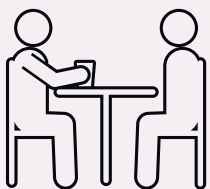
Psalm 139: 13-16



Watch this short video, showing life before birth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-IQOooYAs8>

To think about how uniquely we were made is a concept that should not be taken for granted. We were made in the image of God, and we should live in thankfulness. We have been given a value that can't be taken away.



DISCUSS

- Does the video change the way you see life?
- What life-affirming events are you aware of?
- What ways have you seen life not being affirmed?

So, why should we care about affirming life?

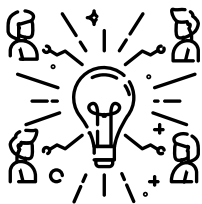
- Knowing that we are made in the image of God, how does that make us look at our identity and who we are?
- There are many scriptures that talk about speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

In the end, our ultimate goal is not just to make sure that people agree with our "side", but that they have changed hearts. This also means that we need a consistent life ethic and care about all those who are voiceless. Some of us may be called to specific areas, but we all have the ability to support and affirm life in every way. We know how special we have been created.

We need to support and come alongside people to help them know life is valuable.



"Our difficult circumstances do not give us the right to end a life."



Read the scripture below as a group, allowing different people to read certain sections and making everyone feel included.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

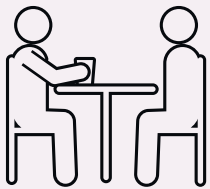
We will face trials and struggles, and our circumstances may be hard. Christ is with us in the struggle *and* in the victory. We can trust in Him.

What does a culture of life look like?

How can you practically be more supporting of a culture of life?

One of the main ways is to reach out to people in some level of power (MP, MLA) and share with them your opinions and ideas on different topics.

Maybe that reaching out means you're going to a school board meeting or talking with your friends about life-affirming ideas. It's true that, if you don't start, you won't get anywhere. Taking small steps in your sphere of influence can make an even greater impact in supporting a culture of life.



DISCUSS

Invite discussion with the whole group, or break off into smaller groups and have everyone come up with a list of qualities that would describe a culture of life.

A culture of life means advocating for life in every stage of life.

- Finding ways to encourage moms who are in school, working, or who stay-at-home
- Meeting with the elderly and genuinely caring for them
- Supporting proper vacation time and maternity leaves for workers
- Voting for MP's and MLA's who support life
- Supporting a crisis pregnancy centre by creating a fundraiser or carrying out a drive to collect items a centre needs
- Compassion is of utmost importance. Empathize with women who feel like they have no support. Many women choose abortion because they feel pressure from all directions. Help women choose life by removing obstacles (financial support, supporting moms in school, working moms)

Taking small daily steps is one of the easiest ways to support life. You don't have to consistently hold a sign and use apologetic training. While those things are effective, our daily actions can sometimes have more impact. We are compelled by the love of Christ and His ministry here on earth as we support and stand up for life. We should remain rooted in faith and Christ-like love as we seek to have a consistent life ethic.

READ THE VERSE BELOW:

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Colossians 2:6-7

We may be discouraged by the decisions our government makes, but, If we want a government that represents our values, we actually have to vote for people that we can support. We need to use our voice to uplift others and vote to support others.

SUMMARY

As Christians rooted in scripture, we cannot stray from what the Bible says about life, marriage, sex and the care for life. We may lean to different sides politically, but that doesn't change the foundations of the Bible. Yes, we may stick out in our culture today, but it is worth it to live for Christ and make life-affirming choices.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

What is one step you can make to support a life-affirming culture?



A LIFE-AFFIRMING WORLDVIEW

What is one step you can make to support a life-affirming culture?

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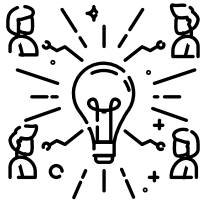
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Notes:

CHURCH CULTURE



Engage the whole group in answering the questions below:

How many times have you heard abortion or MAiD talked about at your church? During the sermon, in youth group, in conversations with other people in your congregation?

How have the speakers at your church affected your worldview on topics such as MAiD or abortion?

Would you know who to go to to get support/counsel if you needed it?

This activity offers us a base to learn how to encourage your church body to have open conversations on the topics and issues of life.

READ THE VERSE BELOW:

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2*

As Christians, we are called to encourage and carry, not condemn, other believers. Statistics show that many women who attend church still feel unsupported or condemned and unforgivable for having an abortion.

We should seek to love and share truth. Seek to uphold the value and dignity of human life, no matter the stage in life - including the life of the post-abortive mother. While churches should openly speak about how abortion is against God's design, the love and support for women and men should be emphasized. ***Abortion is not an unforgivable sin.*** While it will have a large impact on many people, there still needs to be love.

We never have the right to end a life or choose the value of someone else's life.
All life is sacred.

Life may be challenging at times, and, because we know we presently have finite bodies on this side of eternity, we will face difficulty, but we should never consider that to be a factor to end life. Consequently, the community of believers should support one another in all aspects that we can. Here are statements on three main goals that churches could support.

Educate - Teach about relevant topics so that people actually know the Biblical Worldview that is barely talked about on social media.

Engage - Stand up for your convictions and live in action based on timeless spiritual truths.

Encourage - Build a supportive church body that welcomes everyone.

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

What is one step you can make to support a life-affirming culture in your church?

Encourage everyone to write down their goals.

Direct attention to a crisis resource centre, and go through the topic "Caring for a friend" in this curriculum. These are helpful resources if you know participants who know of someone who is considering abortion, or has had one.



CHURCH CULTURE

What is one step you can make to support a life-affirming culture in your church?

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Notes:

A CASE FOR LIFE



- How does our culture view human life?
- What do you know about abortion and MAiD?
- How does your upbringing affect your view on the value of life?
- If you could do anything to change the current political climate on abortion or MAiD, what would you change?

Here are why people advocate for the respect and protection of life from conception to natural death.

BIOLOGICALLY

96% of biologists agree that life begins at conception. As Keith Moore says in his textbook, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*: “Human development is a continuous process that begins when an oocyte from a female is fertilized by a sperm from a male.”



Watch this short video, showing life before birth.

<https://vimeo.com/325006095>

Reiterate the main stages of development listed below

Breakdown of Main Stages of Development

- 24-48 Hours - Cells begin to divide
- 3 Weeks - Heart begins to beat
- 6 Weeks - Movement begins
- 7 Weeks - Body parts form and move
- 8 Weeks - Brain is complex, breathing movements begin

- 9 Weeks - Over 4000 body parts are formed
- 18 Weeks - Begins to hear
- 25 Weeks - Responds to voice
- 36 Weeks - Baby taking up most of the amniotic sac
- 36+ Weeks - Growth and preparation for birth

Throughout each stage of development, there needs to be care and support for the woman and her unborn child. Not everyone has access to the support they need. This is why crisis pregnancy resource centres are important when a woman does not have support from her family or community. They provide the support and care that is needed at each stage (at no cost for mothers and children who need it). They value the importance of providing information and resources with both the woman and the baby in mind.



- When does life begin?
- What do you think is one of the main reasons life is not protected in the womb?
- Do you believe the unborn should receive human rights?

CULTURALLY

If we are considering the baby in the womb, human rights extend to them as well. Statements of human rights were created to protect people. Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms reads: " Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of the person..." How can we affirm the life, liberty, and security of the unborn human person?

***On the next slide of the powerpoint, point out the boxed section which shows this statement in the charter**

Our Charter of Human Rights says all humans are equal. All humans includes the elderly. The elderly ought to be provided with care at the end of life so that they can live well. Palliative care is meant to help individuals nearing the end of their lives. Statistics show that less than 30% of Canadians have access to quality palliative and end-of-life care. People need to be supported and know that they can live well and die well. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) threatens a culture of life. MAiD is a term in Canada used to describe euthanasia and assisted suicide. It's application results in a pre-mature death. Our culture ought to care for the person and alleviate conditions, rather than end the person's life pre-maturely. Palliative care can offer utmost respect and care for a person at the end of their life, by providing pain management, spiritual care, and most of all, hope, during a very difficult time.

These two reasons, biological and cultural, are the principal reasons, but, why people advocate as Christians, we have another reason to be considered. (Check out first topic for more perspective)

FAITH

Where do you believe your value lies?

We cannot stray away from what the Bible says about life, marriage, sex and the care for life. We may lean to different sides politically, but that doesn't change the foundations of the Bible. Yes, we may stick out in our culture today, but it is worth it to live for Christ and make life-affirming choices. These should not be topics we should be worried about asking questions about.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Phillipians 1:21



Watch this short video, talking about the value of life
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYuF2k7SPd4>
If needed, debrief the video.

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

Have your views on human life changed or stayed the same based on this presentation?

If yes, how? If no, why not?

What do you want to learn more about?

How can I personally support life-affirming causes?

How can we as a group support life-affirming causes?

Encourage everyone to write down their goals.

Here are some suggestions for what your group may be interested in doing:

- Pray for leaders to affirm life and ways for you to be involved
- Run a fundraiser to support pregnancy care centres
- Visit a retirement/care home and interact with residents
- Write notes/make gift baskets to give to the elderly
- Start a pro-life club
- Attend life-affirming events or apologetics training
- Wear life-affirming merchandise
- Share life-affirming messages on your social media



A CASE FOR LIFE

What is one concrete step I can make to affirm life?

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Notes:

WHAT IS ABORTION IN CANADA?

Throughout the presentation, many questions may arise. For efficiency of time, save the questions until the end. Refer to the speaking for the unborn topic and check out the additional resources section.

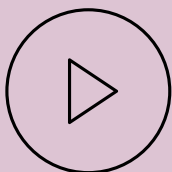


- Do you know how many laws there are in Canada on abortion?
- Do you know what happens during an abortion procedure?
- What is a "safe abortion"?

What's happening with abortion in Canada right now?

Right now in Canada, there is *no law on abortion*. Any woman at any time in her pregnancy can choose to abort her child.

Watch the video below which describes the abortion procedure. Let your group know that it may be hard to watch and that they can leave if they need to. Although it will be hard to view, it will be a very informative experience.



Watch this short video, describing the abortion procedure
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFZDhM5Gwhk>



- What was your initial reaction to that video?
- How can you speak up about abortion without condemning the women in those crisis situations and women who have had abortions in the past?



Debrief the video and make sure to share the importance of not condemning people because you may now understand better what the procedure does. Compassion is of utmost importance because these are actual people experiencing hard situations. For a woman to value the life in her womb, she must also know that her life is valuable. We have the responsibility to uphold the dignity of the child in the womb, as well as the mother.

From that video, let's look further into detail about what abortion really is and how it impacts women.

Things we're told:

- Quick procedure
- Little to no complications
- An easily accessible and safe procedure

Things we're not always told about how an abortion can impact women:

Many women who have had an abortion report significant levels of:

- Negative emotions due to their abortion
- Interference with daily life, work, or relationships
- Intrusive thoughts, including flashbacks to the abortion
- Frequent feelings of loss, grief, or sadness about the abortion
- Increased levels of stress answering questions about the abortion

Discuss the topic of "safe abortion", and allow people to ask questions if they need.

Abortion can never be 100% safe because one human dies - the unborn child. Moreover, pregnancy is something that drastically changes a woman's body. When an unnatural change occurs and a baby is aborted, there is the potential for complications, based on interrupted pregnancy and hormonal changes. Men also are impacted by the loss of fatherhood.

As said in the previous video, 1 in 100 women who take the abortion pill will have medical complications. These complications are not really talked about in the pro-choice movement. Consequences of abortion (physical, mental, emotional, and psychological effects) can get swept under the rug. Women need information to be able to make a proper decision.

So why aren't these things being talked about?



Check out the documentary HUSH for additional information in this regard

How having zero laws on abortion impacts our culture:

- Does not recognize that life is valuable at every stage.
- Dehumanizes the unborn.
- Leaves many women grieving (often silently).
- Devalues the role of men in our society and does not leave men accountable for their actions.
- Fails to recognize the dignity of one's body.
- Leaves women with false information about their own bodies and the life of the fetus in their womb.
- Allows men the ability to have sex "freely", destroying a Biblical view of manhood



As a group, discuss the statements above and decide if you agree or disagree. Also talk about other ideas of ways our culture is impacted

How can Christians respond to the impact of abortion?

First and foremost, we should seek to love. Because of all the information and misinformation, we should be careful in what we share so we don't leave people feeling condemned.

While churches should openly speak about how abortion is against God's design, the love and support for women and men should be emphasized. Abortion is not an unforgivable sin. While it will have a large impact on many people, there still needs to be love.

We need to know the truth and share love. Abortion daily impacts 300 mothers, 300 fathers, 1200 grandparents, and many others that have lost friends or siblings.

But many times it leaves the women and men grieving (often silently), and those people need support rather than being repeatedly told what they did was wrong.

Jesus said in John 8:11, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

Take time to reflect on the topics discussed and encourage everyone to write down their goals.

Direct attention to a crisis resource centre if any of the participants know of someone who is considering abortion or has had one. Also go through the topic "Caring for a friend" in this curriculum if you see your group needing that content.



WHAT IS ABORTION IN CANADA?

How does abortion impact people?

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Notes:

CARING FOR A FRIEND

While it is important to make sure that we share apologetics and our beliefs, there are many people who personally have had an abortion or know someone who has had an abortion.

Consequently, whenever we share our thoughts on abortion, we must always be careful to be sensitive towards people who may see things differently than we do.

Women are already being told what to do with an unplanned pregnancy, and we don't need to add to the noise.

Rather, we should meet her where she is and walk alongside and direct her to the help and healing that she needs.

Never condemn the woman who has had an abortion. Rather, seek to show love and compassion. Apologetics should never override compassion and showing love to someone who has experienced an unplanned pregnancy. We should also seek to provide support for the men who are going through the situations as well.

Below are statistics showing the truth about how abortion impacts women and helps us know how to move forward in supporting women.

²***Statistics show out of 1,038 women who had abortion with views on church:***

52% of Christian women who have had an abortion report no one at church knows that they have had one

30% of Christian women who have had an abortion indicate they have had more than one abortion

76% of women indicate that local churches had no influence on their decision concerning whether or not to have an abortion

49% of women who had an abortion believe that their pastor's teaching on forgiveness doesn't apply to their abortion

64% of women believe that church members are more likely to gossip about a woman considering abortion rather than help her get or understand her alternatives

READ THE VERSE BELOW:

*A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.
Proverbs 17:17 NIV*

This verse should be the basis of how we seek to support those close to us. We love, support and share the truth with them.

Below are ways to communicate the life of the unborn, to those close to you, while also showing compassion and care to them. It's about communicating to the heart.

Seek to Understand

What are they going through? What challenges are they facing?

As soon as a woman finds out that she is pregnant, she will instantly be bombarded by different or conflicting information.

Seek to show compassion and understand the situation.

Ask questions (*from Love Unleashes Life*):

-Why do you want an abortion?

-Have you heard of stories of people who have had positive experiences caring for special needs children?

-If you had the financial means to support this child, would you carry through with the pregnancy?

Support Her

Show up and be there for her, whether it be for a doctor visit, hard conversations with family and friends, or going to a crisis pregnancy centre.

Make yourself available.

With all the pressures around your friend, the thing you can do best is care. She doesn't need to feel more condemned or left helpless.

If you really care for and want to affirm life, you have to show that you're willing to set aside your commitments to show how you value her life as much as the unborn child inside her womb.

Inform Her

While you want to show compassion and love to your friend, you still have the ability to share the truth of what abortion will be.

The main things she should be able to have information on:

- The humanity of her unborn child
- The inhumane nature of abortion
- How abortion impacts women

Be Unwavering

It can be hard to be alone in crisis, especially with an unplanned pregnancy. But, because of your beliefs, if it gets to the point where you are asked to go with her to the procedure, make it clear you will not go with, drive, or facilitate the decision.

You don't want to be held responsible and "*Friends don't drive friends to abortion clinics*"³



Check out the additional resources page for places to direct your friend

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

What is one way you can support someone considering abortion or who has had an abortion?

Check out Life Cultures website for resources for men and women
<https://www.lifeculture.ca>

CARING FOR A FRIEND

What is one way you can support someone considering abortion or who has had an abortion?

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Notes:

SPEAKING FOR THE UNBORN

Introduce the Topic

Today you will be discussing how to have educated and compassionate dialogue about abortion with others

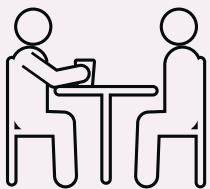


Read the scripture below as a group, allow different people to read certain sections and make everyone feel included.

*“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend
the rights of the poor and needy.”*

Proverbs 31:8-9

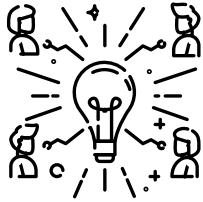
Whether we know it or not, abortion impacts each of us. As a fellow human being, we're urged to protect the lives of our brothers and sisters. The disciples did not house the widow and the orphan because it was the right political move. They did so because it was their calling as the hands and feet of Jesus to love those who are forgotten. While this involvement will look different for everyone, we need to understand where we stand.



DISCUSS

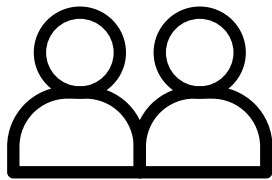
- How you ever shared you views on abortion before with others? How was it received?
- What do you think is a good way to approach the topic of abortion?
- How important do you think compassion is when you are sharing your opinion?

Whenever we are approaching apologetics, we do so with compassion and care for the person we are speaking to. Everyone has an experience that is worth listening to.



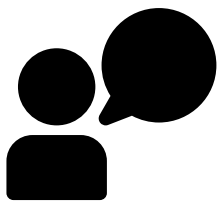
Some people may have had lots of apologetic experience, or others, none. If possible, invite individuals to share with the whole group things that have worked well, or not well, when they have had conversations on abortion with others.

3 STEPS FOR DIALOGUE



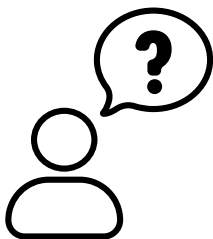
Find Common Ground

Finding common ground is a great way to bring compassion and care to a conversation. Finding Common ground turns a debate/argument into a conversation where both sides can present.



Use Analogies

People would generally agree that killing an innocent human being, no matter the circumstance, is wrong. You can make an analogy by "trotting out the toddler". In other words, replacing the unborn child with a child who has already been born.



Ask questions

When discussing abortion, we want the person to consider the humanity of the unborn child, and so ask a question like: "If we would not kill a born human for this reason_____, why a unborn human?"

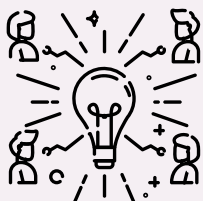
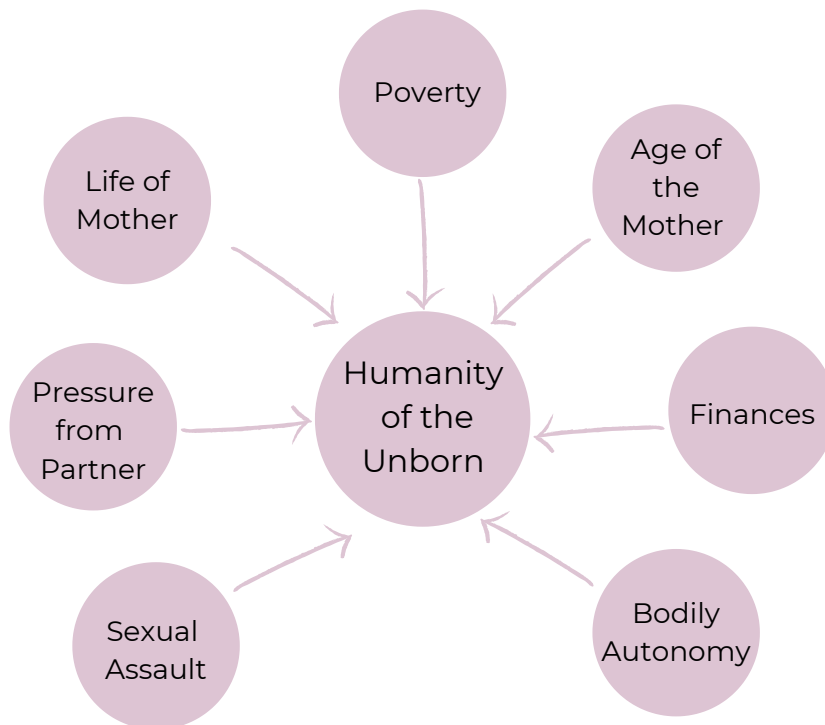
HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Do you believe all humans should get human rights?
2. If something is growing, isn't it alive?
3. If that living organism has human parents, isn't he or she human?
4. Doesn't that make abortion a human rights violation?

CIRCUMSTANCES



Below are some of the main pro-choice arguments used. Do some research through the books listed. All conversations should lead back to the humanity of the unborn.



Take time to allow everyone to practice conversations based on some of the pro-choice arguments. Either dialogue with those around in small groups or get everyone to do it as a large group. Look at the example on the next page for guidance. Start with the question:
What do you think about abortion?

Example:

Abortion should be allowed when a mother is the victim of sexual assault.

Common Ground: I agree that sexual assault is a terrible crime. As a society, we need to do more to prevent it from happening, to punish the guilty rapist, and support the pregnant mother.

Analogy: Imagine the mother of a two year old child was living in an abusive relationship. Once you had helped her get out of that terrible situation, would you suggest killing her son if looking at him reminded her of the trauma she had experienced?

Question: If we would not kill a two year old to help his mother cope with trauma, why would we kill her unborn child for the same reason?

POPULAR ARGUMENTS

"It's just a Fetus!"

This one can just be switched to - what fetus? Dolphins and dogs have fetuses. This distinction is that it is human.

"I'm personally against abortion, but I'm still pro-choice. It's a legal alternative, and we don't have the right to keep it from anyone. Everyone's free to believe what they want, but we shouldn't try to impose it on others."

The only good reason for being personally against abortion is a reason that demands we be against other people choosing to have abortions.

What is legal is not always right.

How can we tell people that they are perfectly free to believe abortion is the killing of children but that they are not free to act as if what they believe is really true?

'What about a woman whose life is threatened by pregnancy or childbirth?'

It is an extremely rare case when abortion is required to save the mother's life. Abortion for the mother's life and abortion for the mother's health are usually not the same issue.

Abortion to save the mother's life was legal before convenience abortion was legalized and would continue to be if abortion were made illegal again.

There are many pro-choice arguments, so before presenting, do some research with the books and videos listed in the additional resources section. Allow participants to ask questions, and be honest if you don't know the answer. Then direct them to helpful resources.

COMMUNICATING TO THE HEART

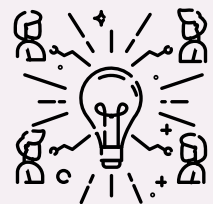
It really is true when you say there are endless ways to talk with people on the subject of abortion. And sometimes we need to take a totally different approach. Every person has their story, and since 100,000 abortions happen a year in Canada, you are very likely to meet someone impacted by abortion. Knowing when to change your approach to the conversation will come with practice. A great resource for communicating to the heart is found in *Love Unleashes Life* by Stephanie Gray Connors (pg. 106-107). Below are some questions to ask when you feel like you should focus more on caring for the person who may have been impacted by abortion.

- Do you know anyone who's experienced (suffering, rape, abortion)?
- What gives you joy? When are you fulfilled?
- Who inspires you? What was their life like?
- Why do you think abortion will help?
- How is your (sister, mom, friend) doing following the abortion?
- Have you given yourself permission to grieve?

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate. Take time to practice the apologetics learned.

How do you want to approach apologetics?

Take time for further questions or practice dialoging. Also use the Kahoot in the "Engage Your Group" section to remember what you learned.



SPEAKING FOR THE UNBORN

How do you want to approach apologetics?

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Notes:

WHAT IS MAiD?

MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying)

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) is the Canadian legislation that allows physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists to carry out euthanasia and assisted suicide. It seeks to allow eligible participants to have a "death with dignity," but directly threatens the belief that every life, no matter the ability or age, is worth protection, care, and respect until its natural end.



- What do you know about MAiD?
- Who has access to it?

When we look into MAiD and the legislation surrounding it, it's hard to even figure out what the law is really saying.

**Go to the next slide with the picture of the screenshot from the Government of Canada's Website*



- What would you describe as a grievous and irredeemable situation?
- What capacity should there be to provide care for the people who are going through harder health struggles?
- Who benefits from the procedure of MAiD?



Watch this short video on Taylor's story and MAiD
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYuF2k7SPd4>

Debrief the video if necessary and lead into talking about MAiD and mental health.

MAiD and Mental Health

MAiD and Mental Health are closely linked, those considering MAiD often feel lonely, and isolated. They lose the ability to engage in meaningful activities, and perform daily activities, and don't want to be a burden to family.

-By allowing people to get MAiD, it's ultimately saying that we don't want to walk with them through their struggle.

-In our world of instant gratification, it's easy to find quick solutions to your problems. But those solutions may not be the best ones.

-In our culture today with the rise of mental illness, solutions are being sought out. But there is not enough support for those in the situations that need help.

-Quick solutions are not life-affirming. It's getting rid of the weight of the problem and bypassing it with a band-aid fix.

-Mental health support needs to be advocated for so that people are able to find real support through their difficulties.

-Life is worth living, and there is a beauty to life, even when it is difficult. In tough situations, we can build connections and empathy with one another, or find more meaning in our lives.

"Life is going to be hard, but it still will be worth it"

While there is a big connection between MAiD and mental health, there are also connections to people who are living with conditions such as arthritis, cerebral palsy, blindness and many other conditions that could seem to people to be a reason to end their life.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition recently shared an update about a woman they provided care for:

A 31-year-old woman who was approved for (MAiD) euthanasia, based on her condition (MCS) that causes her to have strong allergic sensitivities to chemicals, has been helped by individual donors who have enabled her to move to a location that does not trigger her allergic sensitivities.¹

It's not that people specifically want to die - it's that they can no longer live in the conditions that they are in. MAiD is seen as another quick solution to an even bigger problem.

How can Christians respond to the impact of MAiD?

First and foremost, we should seek to love. We need to seek to uphold the value and dignity of human life, no matter the stage in life.

At the same time, it should be clear that, as believers, we never have the right to end a life, no matter how little value we think it has.

Life may be challenging at times, and, because we know we have finite bodies right now on this side of eternity, we will face difficulty, but we should never consider that to be a factor to end life. This is why the community of believers should support those in their church body when someone is facing difficulty.

"Living our humanity before God in community is a powerful antidote to the temptations of autonomy."

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

What are some things you can do to advocate for individuals in difficult situations?

Encourage everyone to write down their goals, and feel free to revisit or inquire about them at a later time.

Here are some suggestions for your group:

- Go on a walk outside
- Write a letter to someone you love
- Create something
- Call a friend
- Bring a gift to someone (random acts of kindness)



WHAT IS MAID?

What are some things you can do to advocate for individuals in difficult situations?

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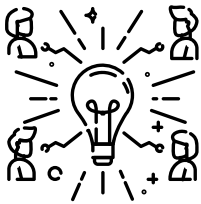
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Notes:

SPEAKING FOR END OF LIFE CARE

Introduce the Topic

Today you will be discussing how to have educated and compassionate dialogue about MAiD with others



Read the scripture below as a group, allow different people to read certain sections and make everyone feel included.

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the
rights of the poor and needy."*

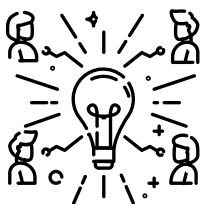
Proverbs 31:8-9



DISCUSS

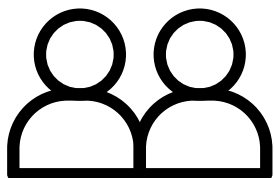
- Have you ever shared your views on MAiD before with others? How was it received?
- What do you think is a good way to approach the topic of MAiD?
- How important do you think compassion is when you are sharing your opinion?

Whenever we are approaching apologetics, we must do it with compassion and care for the person we are speaking to. Everyone has an opinion that is worth listening to.



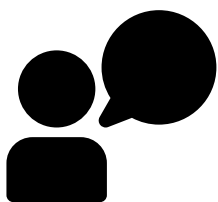
Some people may have had lots of experience, or others none. If possible, invite individuals to share with the whole group things that have worked well, or not well when they have had conversations on MAiD with others.

3 STEPS FOR DIALOGUE



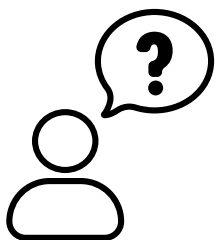
Find Common Ground

Finding common ground is a great way to bring compassion and care to a conversation. This turns a debate/argument into a conversation where both sides can present.



Use Analogies

This helps people understand their worldview and the impact of their view.



Ask questions

Using questions helps the other people think about what they truly believe. Questioning draws out their perspective so that the discussion isn't a debate.

Use questions like "Why is that?" "How so?"



Discussing Assisted Suicide, or MAiD, can be challenging at times. While talking about abortion can be based on the fact that the unborn is a human being deserving of rights, MAiD is something that is more based on a person's worldview and the way they value life. Check out 'additional resources' in the back for books to read to further educate yourself on this topic.

WHAT?

Use the question of What, to understand where they are coming from.

-What do they think about MAiD/Assisted Suicide?

-What do they think of Suicide?

-What good can I bring out of this difficult situation?

Finding meaning connected to circumstances of suffering and turn suffering around.

PRINCIPLES FOR DISCUSSION

"If humans are equal, we ought to get suicide prevention."

Story of Kevin Berthia, a man who survived a suicide attempt from the Golden Gate bridge in 2005:

"I had never spoken to anybody about how I felt and I never accepted I had depression. Where I come from – Oakland, California – reputation is everything, so I convinced everyone I was OK. But I was tired and I couldn't do it anymore. I parked and walked towards the bridge. As I jumped over the railings I heard someone say: "Hey, wait a minute." I was convinced I was going to end my life , but at the last moment his voice made me stop and grab the railings. That's what you see in the picture – me standing on the ledge. I now know that was Officer Briggs (centre, leaning on the railings). He snapped me back to reality. I was on that ledge for 92 minutes, and for 89 of those I just talked. I got everything out and he listened without judging."¹

Was it a good thing that the officer prevented the attempt?

So then should doctors prevent their patients from wanting MAiD?

Why is it okay in a different context?

We're about autonomy. What makes it the same? Different?

We can alleviate suffering without eliminating sufferers

What is the inconsistency?

Prevention vs Assistance

-Some lives are worth saving and others aren't

-How can we decide whose life is more valuable if we believe in equality

When someone comes to a doctor and wants to die, handing them assisted suicide doesn't probe deeper.

Why do they want to die?

What circumstances could change?

When someone is need, that is an opportunity to unleash love.

Because a person has a burden does not make them a burden

READ THE VERSE BELOW:

*"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."
1 John 4:11*

CREATING CONVERSATION

There are considered to be three positions, and each should have emphasis placed on the value of life.

THE PRO-LIFE POSITION

- Not Vitalism
- Positive Solutions
- Suffering Unleashes Love and Creativity

THE SPLIT POSITION

- Trot out the Teenager : Reveal the reason- Choice or Judgement?
- Judgement: Some people are better off dead

QUIT

- Quality of Life
- Unbearable Suffering
- Incurable Condition
- Terminal Prognosis
- Suicide, Symptom of Unmet needs
- Human Rights Violation
- Ageism
- Ableism
- Two Classes (Valuing some, not valuing others)

THE TOTAL CHOICE POSITION

- Assist anyone?
- Rational Suicide?
- Our Duty to the Suicidal
- Love > Philosophy
- Consequences

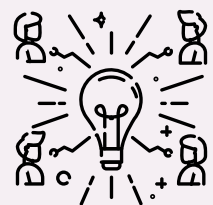
While the apologetics for Discussing MAiD/Assisted Suicide may be more confusing, one thing remains. We are always meant to be motivated by the love of Christ. So many times we can get caught up in apologetics that we stray away from what we were called to do.

Share the love of Christ boldly and stand for truth.

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate. Take time to practice the apologetics learned.

How do you want to approach apologetics?

Take time for further questions and practice dialoguing. Also use the Kahoot in the "Engage Your Group" section to remember what you learned.



SPEAKING FOR END OF LIFE CARE

How do you want to approach apologetics?

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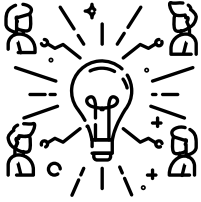
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Notes:

CRTITICAL THINKING



Play a group game. Read one of the Statements and have the group members categorize themselves into strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, disagree, strongly disagree. If space permits, make lines on the floor with masking tape. Otherwise, have them move into a certain area of the room, or just have them raise their hands. Once people are in a response grouping, feel free to let them share their opinion. Encourage respect from everyone.

Statements:

Chocolate is a delicious treat

Clothing is a form of personal expression

School prepares us for "the real world"

Pain is a natural part of living

People can overcome great suffering

Social media can be a healthy way to stay connected

My life has a purpose

Many times we don't take time to stop and think about the decisions we make and the actions we take. This activity is meant to inspire respectful discussion and thought-provoking questions. Take time to reflect and discuss thoughts on the activity.



- What did this activity teach you about yourself or your opinions?
- Do you think you have an impact on changing our culture?

Critical thinking means drawing on our existing knowledge and experience to evaluate ideas and form opinions.

Why is Critical Thinking important?

1. It helps us navigate all the information we see on a daily basis
2. It helps us understand how external factors impact our views

When we are purposefully going forward and looking to Christ, there are going to be things that want to pull us away. Temptations and fleshly desires want to take over. When we have intentionally chosen to desire and move into our faith, the enemy will make any effort he can to take you off course. And many times when we are feeling comfortable with where we are at and we're not being challenged, that may be a sign we're not desiring the right things. We all know how hard it can be to stay focused on one thing.

You may not know the exact state of everyone's relationship with social media, but we all know it's positive and negative effects.

The creators of the social media apps didn't make them because they wanted to specifically help lead others to Christ. While there are a lot of influencers who are devoted to Christian life, there are a lot of sources and people to follow who are headed in the wrong direction. We are encouraged to carefully think about what messages we are taking in - are they helpful or harmful in our walk with Christ and in our walk to speak for the voiceless?

READ THE VERSES BELOW:

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil."

Proverbs 4:23-27

Analyze the three posts below as a group and share your opinion on them:

What message is this post sharing?



POST #1

-Posted June 17th, 2022

-Showing a nice summer day made better with chocolate pralines

-Showing they can provide you with the perfect treat

-Telling you things about your lifestyle choices



POST #2

-Posted April 22nd, 2022

-Visual representation of the loss of children each day due to abortion

-A reminder of lives lost

-A thought-provoking question about the potential of their lives



POST #3

-Posted June 13th, 2022

-Saying everyone deserves equality

-Defining equality only for reproductive rights

-Who gets equality?

Hopefully these activities got your group to practice a system of good critical thinking. Take time to allow any of the participants to ask questions.

If anyone has an article or post that they saw, they might want to share it with the group, and together you can look at it.

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

What did these activities do to help you learn more about critical thinking?

Here are some ideas for practical steps to take:

- Researching more into things that are trending
- Taking time to find the message of a post
- Look for ways to uplift others online
- Seek ways to build real community with other people



CRITICAL THINKING

How can you use your voice to uplift others online?

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Notes:

THROWAWAY CULTURE

Since this is a more sensitive topic, allow participants to leave if they need to.
Share in a caring and informative way.

We're not only discussing the topic of consumerism of clothes or plastics that are thrown away. While that still is a problem, we're talking about a similar concept of how people are treated as objects. In our hookup culture, people are not being held to a value that they should be.



- What are some things in your life that are valuable to you?
- What is instant gratification?
- How many hours do you spend on social media?



For further education on this subject,
check out the additional resources

What does "Throwaway Culture" mean?

We live in a modern day consumer culture where everything is made an object and is used for our means until no longer convenient or necessary for us. Unfortunately, this perspective sometimes extends to how we view people. Rather, we need to recognize the inherent dignity of all humans.



Discuss this statement below in small groups:

"People, relationships, and sex are for pleasure."

A discussion on Secularized and Hook-up culture

- People should never be treated as a "thing"
- If we believe everyone has value, then their body has value as well. It should be treated with dignity.
- Our bodies are interlaced with our minds, emotions, and psychology.
- While sex can be pleasurable, pleasure is not the *only* result.
- Pregnancy is a potential result of sex (no matter how "safely" it's practiced).

We were designed to give care to our bodies as outlined in the book "Love Thy Body" by Nancy Pearcy. This concept is looked at from a two-story person theory:

Two-Story Christianity

Sacred

Spirit, Soul, Church, Work

Secular

Body, Intellect, Professional

While this first view is a good way in which Christians should approach the way we view ourselves, we cannot separate sacred and secular entirely. The truth is that our faith impacts our whole lives. When we pray for salvation, we are admitting, that apart from Christ, our lives have no specific purpose. While there may be some gray areas in faith that we have to approach with wisdom, we should never get to the point where we are asking : "How far can I go and still have salvation?"

We don't throw ourselves away to hook up culture. We should seek help if we are watching porn. We don't need to be ashamed because we have sinned. Instead, we can run to God who is willing to forgive us so as long as we desire it.

The grace of God is not meant to be an excuse for continual sin. Rather, it is an invitation into holiness and a closer relationship with Jesus.

The world is tempting, and especially around high school and college is where you have to make the decision if you'll follow the crowd or stand up for faith.

It comes down to the question: are you willing to take up your cross?

In comparison, the personhood theory says, "I am not my body."

Personhood Theory

Person

Has Moral and Legal Standing

Body

An expendable Biological Organism

When we decide to throw away or not live by our morals of faith, anything becomes acceptable. We all do it, no matter the sin or temptation. We chose for a second that something would be better and end up on a path we never saw ourselves on. Yes, doing something to momentarily fill us might feel right in the moment but will have consequences that we never anticipated. We can't condemn others; only God is the perfect righteous judge. We need to be ready to support others in their journeys of faith and build each other up to live fruitful lives, living with true joy. (John 15) Deciding to abide in Christ, rather than follow the world's pattern of doing things for instant gratification, will end up being way more fulfilling.

We cannot support the personhood theory. As Christians, our morals and the way we view our body and soul are directly linked. Our morals determine what we do with our body.

God's design for marriage, sex and our dignity (body and soul), is perfect and worth pursuing. Though the journey may be difficult, it is worth it.

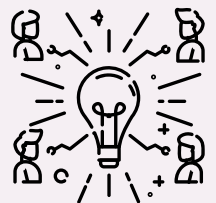
Just stop and take a moment to look at yourself in a mirror and think of how uniquely God made you.

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

As a group, write down or share encouraging things with the people around you.

For ways to further uplift others, here are some ideas:

- Make an encouragement wall, using sticky notes or cue cards
- Let someone you know how much you appreciate them
- Write a letter to someone in your life (Friend, family member, co-worker)
- Make a gift basket for someone



THROWAWAY CULTURE

How can you encourage those around you?

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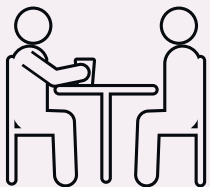
Notes:

GENDER, GOD'S GIFT

Introduce the Topic

Because this is going to be a sensitive topic, make it clear that you will answer questions at the end. This topic also ties into the throwaway culture.

Also make sure it's clear that the definitions are clear for the sexes and how you're referring to gender (biological male & female) Keep it clear that this is not what some would confuse as gender identity.



DISCUSS

- What ways do you see culture viewing gender?
- What faith principles talk about gender?

WE HAVE BEEN DESIGNED MALE AND FEMALE

"Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Mankind when they were created."

Genesis 5:2

At the beginning of the Bible, we immediately learn about gender and our designs as male and female. Many times in this culture our world can change that definition, but it stays clear in scripture. God has designed us with differences for a reason, and, although these differences have caused division and dividing acts, the foundation of who we are will stay the same.

While the definition of gender may have changed to some people, the basis in the difference between Male and Female will stay the same. When we were conceived, God created us as a unique, wonderful, lovable person - which includes our gender. And that is something powerful and beautiful.

EMBRACING OUR UNIQUE DESIGN

Have you ever seen those picture books of snowflakes photographed in hundreds of designs? They're all snowflakes, but they each look different. I think that is a similar concept to how we should embrace who we are. We are Male and Female, yet we all are unique. Whether it be our personality preferences, or the way we see the world, God has made us different. Gender needn't be an stereotypical box that we put ourselves into. Yes, there are cognitive and biological differences, but that needn't be a bad thing. It doesn't mean we can redefine our gender.

Femininity and masculinity are both great gifts from God. In fact, both masculinity and femininity help us understand who God is. Protector and provider. Nurturer and life-giver.

While we are different, we can help one another protect each other's dignity.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28

In the book Culture War, author Jonathan Van Maren talks about how porn affects the way each gender views the other. Marriages are being affected more than ever, and divorce rates are rising. People are distorting the design of sex that God made. We should desire to be set free from our throwaway culture and embrace how God has made us, relationally and sexually.

¹"Hook-up Culture eliminated marriage stability as the context for sexual relations... The hyper-sexualization of virtually every aspect of culture contributes to sky-rocketing rates of infidelity. And aside from that, people are abandoning marriage in droves seeing it as an unnecessary commitment at a time when they have a variety of relationships open to them."

"Pornography isn't just destroying marriages and relationships. It's rewiring our brains to create hypersexual people incapable of enjoying many of the simple joys of family life."

As outlined in research, porn affects different areas including increased marital stress, decreased intimacy and devaluation of monogamy, marriage and child rearing.

Upholding Dignity

How do we uphold the dignity of ourselves and others?

- Realizing the effects of porn
- Knowing the effects of hypersexualized music videos
- Valuing friendships
- Valuing people for who they are, not what you can get from them
- Having realistic expectations of our bodies
- Not placing stereotypes on other people
- Honouring natural attractions and feelings of our bodies, asking God to not let them control us

Overall, our view of gender should remain based on the word of God.

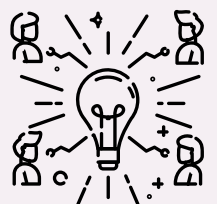
We were made uniquely by Christ and are one under Him. A healthy connection of males and females, not just under marriage, is something that we should support. We were made for connection and union as the body of Christ, supporting each other in a way that is not overbearing. Yes, we may be annoyed at the many movements and opinions of the world. If we stay rooted in faith and look for ways to support Biblical manhood and womanhood, we will be able to live in peace, knowing our identity in Christ.

End your time with a reflection, and encourage everyone to participate.

As a group, write down or share encouraging things with the people around you.

For ways to further uplift others, here are some ideas:

- Make an encouragement wall, using sticky notes or cue cards
- Let someone you know how much you appreciate them
- Write a letter to someone in your life (Friend, family member, co-worker)
- Make a gift basket for someone



GENDER, GOD'S GIFT

How can you embrace how God has made you?

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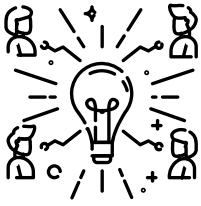
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Notes:



ENGAGE YOUR GROUP

KAHOOTS

Look up LifeCulture in the search bar or follow the link:

<https://create.kahoot.it/profiles/03b019d0-e6be-47c1-b333-d77c3c191d07>

A Life-Affirming Worldview
Church Culture
What is Abortion in Canada?
Speaking for the Unborn
What is MAiD?
Speaking for End of Life Care

Debriefing tips for videos

For videos with more sensitive topics and visuals on the abortion procedure, it might be a good idea for you to lead your group in a discussion. Feel free to use the questions below:

- What was your initial reaction to the video?
- What are some of the things that you learned from the video?
- Do you think that this visual presentation helped expand your understanding?
- Were there any points in the video that made you feel uncomfortable? Do you know why?
- What are some positive takeaways from the video?

BIBLIOGRAPHY/ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A Case for Life

¹ (Keith L. Moore: *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology* (10th edition), Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2016. pg. 1).

What is Abortion in Canada?

Additional videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRAOKMCEP2o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrQYHeodRio>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/hlv-20049471>

*HUSH Documentary can be rented for a fee online

What is MAiD?

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-services-benefits/medical-assistance-dying.html>

¹ <http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2022/05/great-news-31-year-old-woman-who-was.html>

² (<https://www.mbseminary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/MAiD-presentation-Cooper.pdf>)

Additional videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vF8L8RUziw&feature=emb_imp_woyt

Speaking for the Unborn

*Ideas from this section came from:

STUCK - Justina Van Maren

Love Unleashes Life - Stephanie Gray Connors

Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments - Randy Alcorn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXeTicSChx8>

Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform

*We are not affiliated with and may not agree with all these groups views on abortion apologetics. We have used the ones we support in this section of the curriculum.

Speaking for End of Life Care

*Ideas from this section came from:

Start with What - Stephanie Gray Connors

A Guide to Discussing Assisted Suicide - Jonathan Van Maren & Blaise Alleyne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeA3uUoXS84>

*We are not affiliated with and may not agree with all these groups views on abortion apologetics. We have used the ones we support in this section of the curriculum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Caring for a Friend

¹ C.S. Lewis, "Answers to questions on Christianity," *God in the Dock* (Michigan: Wm.B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2014), 37.

² *CareNet and LifeWay Research (2015, 05)*

Additional resources and concepts in this section from:

³ Stephanie Gray "Love Unleashes Life" (Canada: Life Cycle books, 2015) 123.

helpforpregnancy.ca

heartbeatinternational.org

adoptioncanada.ca

theradiancefoundation.org

iamviable.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToNWquoXqJI>

ehd.org

whatisabortion.com

abortionbreastcancer.com

silentnomoreawareness.org

Critical Thinking

Additional Resources:

Who are you following? - Sadie Robertson Huff

https://spectrumgame.backerkit.com/hosted_preorders/417663

Throwaway Culture

Brain, Heart, World Documentary series: <https://brainheartworld.org>

Discussion on Throwaway Culture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxdp00nnSBw>

Books to read: (Mainly based on a faith perspective)

Love thy Body - Nancy Pearcy

Culture War - Jonathan Van Maren

Gender, God's Gift

¹ Jonathan Van Maren "Culture War" (Canada: Life Cycle books, 2016) 44,54,59.

Additional Resources:

<https://qideas.org/qmoments/should-Christians-use-preferred-pronouns/>

Life-Affirming Instagram accounts to check out

@lifeculture.ca
@generationlife.ca
@liveaction.org
@studentsforlife

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Curriculum was developed by Life Culture Canada. Life Culture Canada is a pro-life educational resource that seeks to equip churches and individuals to speak for life. To learn more or get involved, visit our website, www.lifeculture.ca.

Bible references are from the English Standard Version (ESV) translation unless noted otherwise.

We are the young people of Life Culture! We are dedicated to living out our convictions that every life, from the moment of fertilization to natural death and every moment in between, is worthy of respect and care. Our goal is to transform our culture into a culture that values life.

www.generationlife.ca