




Sermon Discussion Guide

Old Paths: Life

Jeremiah 6:16; Exodus 20:13
Ray Cortese, January 14 & 15, 2017

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Jeremiah 6:16. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What was your initial reaction when you heard that the sermon would be about the sanctity of life? Do you think this issue is too polarizing to talk about in church?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE ISSUE: THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

- 3 Of all the statistics that Ray shared, which one shocked you or surprised you the most?
- 4 How are physician assisted suicide and euthanasia pro-life issues just like abortion?
- 5 Discuss the quote found on the top of the next page:

“So what if abortion ends a human life. All life is not equal. That's a difficult thing for liberals like me to talk about, lest we wind up looking like death-panel-loving, kill- your-grandma-and-your-precious-baby storm troopers. Yet a fetus can be a human life without having the same rights as the woman in whose body it resides. She's the boss. Her life and what is right for her circumstances and health should automatically trump the rights of the non-autonomous entity inside her. Always.”

THE ISSUE: GOD HAS SPOKEN

- 6 What is the real issue as it relates to God’s authority and our autonomy? Why is “pro-choice” a regrettably appropriate label?
- 7 If every human being is made in the image of God, then what are the implications for our ethics?
- 8 Read and discuss Psalm 139:13-16 and Exodus 21:22-24.

THE ISSUE: LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES

- 9 In your own words, what does it look like to lay down our lives for children at Seven Rivers? What does it look like to lay down our lives for women who have had an abortion?
- 10 What was the point of the illustration about the pastor who visited the woman at the hospital every day?
- 11 How did Ray tie in the message of the Lord’s Supper at the end of the sermon?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?