

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Sanctity of Human Life

These questions are for the **January 17, 2016** sermon, "Before the Midwife Comes." Please read the sermon passage (Exodus 1:8-22) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

Remain faithful to God, even when . . .

1. **The quality of human life is diminished** (8-14)
 - A. The Israelites were slaves, oppressed by their taskmasters; afflicted daily.
 - B. As life gets harder and bitter, the persecuted Christian is called to remain faithful.
 - C. Christians are the "anvil which has worn out many a hammer." -Beza
2. **The sanctity of human life is challenged** (15-22)
 - A. The faithful believer protects life even when the law allows for abortion.
 - B. Our culture wants authority with autonomy, or "my rules for my body." But God sets the rules, and even owns our bodies. He has authority, and therefore sets the boundaries. Choose life.
 - C. When we live a bitter, persecuted life we may lose heart to advocate to protect life. In our hearts we may ask, "Why battle to save life if life is so hard anyways?" Resist this leaning.
 - D. The midwives of Exodus 1 are not commended for what some call their lie (about how fast the Israelites deliver babies). Lying is not okay. They are rewarded for preserving life--even disobeying government mandates to do it because God's law is above the government.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How have you had to endure persecution or bitter situations because you are a believer? Do you maintain that your loved ones have dignity and importance even when their so-called "quality of life" is low? Discuss human dignity in the midst of low "quality of life."
2. Based on #1, above: What does it look like to be faithful in the midst of bitterness, grief or persecution? Discuss Pastor Saeed's faithfulness in the midst of a 3-year imprisonment in Iran. How was he faithful in the midst of a low quality of life? How was his wife faithful?
3. Based on #2, above: How can you protect life in a culture where abortion is legal?
4. Based on #2, above: How can you prepare now to tell the truth if the courts of the land begin to ask you questions about protecting the lives around you? How could the midwives have told the truth?
5. Based on #2, above: Discuss various ways to "protect life" as we acknowledge that each and every human life has dignity. How can we protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us? Spend some time praying for counselors, nurses, doctors, school teachers, therapists, social workers and parents of babies, special needs children and adults. Pray also for those caring for our aging population. Pray for those advocating for new laws which respect life. Pray for the appointment of judges who recognize God's law.