

Equipping the Church For Life – Lesson 2 – Leader’s Guide

**The Trinitarian Value of Human Life
(What God Has Done with His Hands that Gives Value to Human Life)**

Key Concept –God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit give inherent value to human life regardless of the stage of development or condition of health.

Gospel Focus – Our value comes from what God has done and continues to do in our lives through Jesus Christ.

Desired Outcome – That the participants may more fully understand the great value our Triune God gives to each and every human life, see the connection this has in the life arena, and be moved to value life from a whole new perspective.

**Bible Study Guide
The Handiwork of God**

[This presentation and study guide are designed to be flexible. You may view the entire forty-minute DVD in one session and then use this study guide for another session of similar length. For an adult Bible study type setting where the second session may be a week later, you might want to stop the DVD where indicated and then cover the related study questions. It would still fit well into two forty-five minute sessions. You are also supplied with much additional material and resources. So this lesson could easily be expanded beyond two weeks. We invite you to develop it as you think best for your situation.]

[If you use the pause-the-DVD option, the first section of the DVD is twenty-five minutes long. That will leave you twenty to thirty minutes for reviewing “God’s Creating Hands – Adam and Eve” and “God’s Creating Hands – You and Me.”]

God’s Creating Hands – Adam and Eve

Read Genesis 1:26-27. What is implied in the words “Let us” and “our”? **[Our Triune God is at work.]**

What is the “image of God”? **[You may want to refer people to the catechism’s question number 106 in the 1991 CPH edition.] The footnotes in the Lutheran Study Bible also offer some thoughts on this. See also page 2c in the *GOD’S WORD for Life* (GWFL) Bible.]**

Who is it that is made in God’s image? **[Both male and female, thus human life is placed in a high and lofty position.]**

[Transition: Genesis 1 is like the newspaper headlines “God Creates Human Beings in His Image!” Genesis 2 is the “more-details-on-page-2” kind of story.]

Read Genesis 2:7. What two actions make the creation of Adam unique? **[Forming and breathing.]**

Read Genesis 2:22. What does the word “made” literally mean and why is that important? **["To build." It implies an intimate, hands on creation of Eve as well.]**
[Much time could be spent on the following. The purpose in this study, however, is to show the loss of the image of God, but also how this original, high position still gives value to human life.]

Read Genesis 3:1-7. What were the two key aspects of Satan’s temptation? (1, 5) **[To doubt God’s word and to think they could be like God. Both were based on lies, of course. God never said they couldn’t eat from any tree in the garden, only the one. They already were like God, created in His image. Knowing good and evil and determining right and wrong, however, belonged to God alone. Man is not capable of handling such knowledge]**

The image of God is lost. Adam and Eve do not pass this along to their progeny. (See Genesis 5:3.) Nevertheless, this unique and high original position in God’s creation still affords human beings great value. (See Genesis 9:6.)

God’s Creating Hands – You and Me

God created Adam and Eve with His hands in a way never to be repeated. But He still creates human life with His hands! When God told Adam and Eve to, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ...” (Genesis 1:28), He sets into motion a biological process for procreation.

What is the context for the procreation of human life? (Genesis 2:24) **[Marriage. Part of the “one flesh” union is sexual intercourse for the purpose of procreation. See the comments on marriage in GWFL pg. 2g]**

Read Psalm 139:13-14. You may recall from the DVD that “You created my inward parts” or “inmost being,” is comparable to what happens at the moment of conception. You were you at that moment. Do you recall how unique you are? **[Each human being is the result of a possible one in seventy-trillion chromosomal combinations.]**

“[Y]ou knitted me together in my mother’s womb” (Literally, “You wove a covering for me.”), describes what happens when you reach the womb, implant, produce your own umbilical cord and placenta, and your inner cell mass begins to fold and change and produce everything necessary for your body and all its parts. **[See commentary in GWFL pg 712a. Depending on how much time you want to spend, there are any number of good DVD’s and brochures available that give much more detail on fetal development. Some suggestions are: *Watch me Grow* posters and brochures available from LFL; *What They Never Told You about the Facts of Life* a brochure available from LFL; *You are a Masterpiece* DVD available from LFL; *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* DVD available from Answers in Genesis at www.answersingenesis.org.]**

Because of the involvement of God’s Hands, we can all sing with Psalmist, “I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

[Resume the DVD here. This section runs for sixteen minutes and will give you ample time to do a quick review and move into the For Life application section.]

God's Redeeming Hands

Read 1 Corinthians 6:20. Who remembers the definition of “redeem”? **[To buy back with a price.]**

How does Acts 20:28 help us understand the enormity of the price paid? **[It reminds us that it was no mere man who shed His blood and died on the cross. The antecedent to “his own blood” is God!]**

What does Luke 1:31 have to do with the price of our redemption? **[The Lord God who cannot be contained by “heaven and the highest heaven” (1 Kings 8:27) became a speck in the womb of Mary!]**

Read Psalm 51:5 and Hebrews 2:14-18 and review the reason that Jesus had to stoop so low as to be conceived in a womb. **[Sinners sinful from the moment of conception need a Savior from the moment of conception. Jesus' holy conception and development takes the place of our unholy conception and development. Reference GWFL Commentary on this pgs. 634b and 1184a]**

Where did the Word become flesh and dwell among us? **[Nazareth]**

Recite together or have someone read Luther's explanation of the 2nd Article.

God's Holding Hands

Read Isaiah 42:6. When does God call us “in righteousness”? (See also Colossians 2:11-14.) **[Baptism]**

What does it mean to be called “in righteousness”? (See Galatians 3:26-28 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.) **[Christ not only frees us from the punishment of our sins, He gives us His righteousness. We are covered with it. We live in it.]**

What is the critical point about the relationship God has with us as described in Isaiah 42:6? (Remember Joey!) **[God holds our hand, not the other way around. We rely on His faithfulness and His strength as we walk with Him toward heaven.]**

Read 1 Timothy 2:4. How does this verse give value to every human life? **[God desires this “hand-held” relationship with every human being.]**

For Life Application

Discuss how the three foundational truths—Created, Redeemed, and Called—presented in the DVD apply in the life arena.

[The desired outcome of this discussion is that: EVERY human life has value because of what God had done with His hands. EVERY human life is a life created by Him, redeemed by Him, and someone He wants to call to Him. This, then, would include—an embryo in a Petri Dish or frozen in a fertility clinic, a baby in womb, young people facing difficult temptations, people in crisis pregnancies, people who have made terrible mistakes, people dealing with debilitating chronic disease, the frail elderly, those terminally ill, those no longer aware of their surroundings.]

We can even take it further. It also includes—abortionists, those who work in abortion mills, those who work for Planned Parenthood, those who disagree with us, our fellow member, our neighbor next door with the noisy dogs, the clerk at the store—the list goes on and on. Understanding these all have value because they are created by God, redeemed in the blood of Jesus, and someone God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him not only helps us deal with the life issues from the perspective of the Gospel, it helps us deal with life!]

Base your discussion on the **World's Answer** and the **Word's Answer** to the following questions.

1. How did human life begin?

World's Answer –

[Evolution. Through chemical combinations, genetic mutation, and natural selection, human life evolved from non-living matter into a highly complex organism over billions of years. Evolution is forced to say that life came from that which is non-living. Higher forms of life evolved from lower forms of life. One species evolves into another species. Thus, human beings are a little higher than the apes rather than a little lower than the heavenly beings. This theory is maintained in spite of lack of evidence of intermediary forms between species. The mechanism for such evolution is also scientifically suspect. Genetic mutation is almost always harmful to a species not helpful. To say that genetic mutation can bring positive change within a species is stretching it. To say that genetic mutations can result in an entirely new species goes way beyond observable and verifiable science. Evolution does not afford to human life any more value than it would to the life of a dog or an amoeba.]

Word's Answer –

[God's hands. With His hands, God lovingly formed Adam from the dust of the ground and made Eve from one of Adam's ribs. What a totally different answer we hear in Scripture. As stated above, those first two human beings were "handmade" by God. The first human beings were not the result of chance or mistakes. They were the result of design and purpose. They did not reflect the image of some lower life form but the very image of God. The hands-on creation by God of those first human beings gives inestimable value to them and to all subsequent human beings.]

2. How is death dealt with?

World's Answer –

[No need. Death is not the result of sin and God's wrath. Death is the evolutionist's friend, a necessary part of the process to arrive at human life, thus death existed long before humans. There is no need to be redeemed from it. Death is seen as a friend, not an enemy. Death is the necessary precursor to life. Without millions and millions of years of death, there could be no human life. According to evolution, chaos and death give way to complexity and life. There is a great danger here to the very foundation of Christianity. If death existed before those first human beings, and if death is to be championed as the agent of life and not the result of God's wrath over sin, then there is no need for a Savior from sin and the wrath of God. Christianity becomes meaningless.]

Word's Answer –

[God's hands. Adam and Eve's disobedience brought sin and death. But God loved what His hands made and promised a Savior. The hands of God's Son stretched out on a cross would pay the price for redemption. Death is our enemy. Death is not the precursor to life but the result of life gone bad. Because Adam and Eve sinned, perfection and life gave way to sin and death. Each and every human being is now conceived and born in sin because of the sin of our first parents. Each and every human being deserves what Adam and Eve deserved—death and damnation. But God defeated sin and death when Jesus suffered God's wrath in the place of each and every human being when He stretched out those hands on the cross. God defeated sin and death when this same Jesus rose from the dead and those nail-scarred hands became hands of peace and healing for the human soul. Jesus died for Adam and Eve's sin. He died for your sin. He died for everyone's sin.]

3. What sustains human life?

World's Answer –

[Human hands. Humanity is in control of its own destiny and well being. When it comes to human life, the world believes it is on its own to sustain human life. The world turns to its own wisdom and often uses scientific technology where the end result justifies the means. The world sets itself up as being "like God" in determining what is right and wrong when it comes to sustaining human life. The standards for "how far is too far?" come from human reasoning and are therefore subjective and changeable.]

Word's Answer –

[God's Hands. God is in control through the power of His Holy Spirit, and with His hands "satisfies the desire of every living thing" (Psalm 145:16). The Word says we are not on our own. God does not forsake those He has created with His hands and redeemed with His hands just as He did not forsake Adam and Eve. He holds us by the hand. (Isaiah 42:6). His Holy Spirit points us to His wisdom. We understand that technology is a gift from Him that

He wants us to use to sustain and enhance human life, but not at all cost. The standards for “how far is too far?” come from Him and are therefore objective and unchanging.]

For Life Homework

During the week take this study personally. Regardless of what joy or sorrow, pain or grief you encounter this week, you are a created, redeemed, and called child of your heavenly Father. Rejoice in that!

Also this week “tune in” to those you encounter. Are any grappling with a “life issue”? Will you see an elderly person shuffling along? Someone in a wheel chair? Someone afflicted with cancer or a genetic disorder? A pregnant woman? Young people looking for answers? People mourning or grieving? Someone burdened with a past sin? Remind yourself that no matter who they are, where they live, how they live, the condition of their health, everyone one of them has value because they are created by God, redeemed by Jesus, and someone the Holy Spirit has called or desires to call. Look for opportunities to share this good news with them.

Maybe you will be able to share some of your encounters next week in Bible study.

Resources

1. GWFL Bible
2. LFL Brochures: Handiwork of God, 3B's of when Life Begins, Watch Me Grow materials, What They Never Told You about the Facts of Life.
3. DVD's – You are a Masterpiece, Fearfully and Wonderfully Made