

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR FIVE | SUMMER QUARTER
CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS 4



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LESSON SEQUENCE

SUMMER QUARTER

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the **Implementing God's Word...** curriculum is to equip youth to put the truths of Scripture together in their minds and to work in their hearts, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Christian Mind

LESSON ONE	Is Abortion a Sin?
LESSON TWO	Christians and Medicine?
LESSON THREE	Environment and Animal Rights?
LESSON FOUR	Role of the Civil Government?
LESSON FIVE	Christian Education?
LESSON SIX	Christian Feminists?
LESSON SEVEN	Christians and Technology?
LESSON EIGHT	Entertainment Media?
LESSON NINE	Christians and Politics?
LESSON TEN	Christians and Work?
LESSON ELEVEN	Economics?
LESSON TWELVE	Military and War?
LESSON THIRTEEN	Marriage and Divorce?



DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF
PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

LESSON ONE --- IS ABORTION A SIN?

OVERVIEW

Even though abortion is legal in our country, it continues to be a hotly debated issue, especially for Christians. Those who oppose abortion define it as the murder of innocent unborn children. Those who support abortion prefer to define abortion as simply the medical termination of a pregnancy. Just those differences in definitions define the foundations of the conflict on this issue.

There are many arguments which must be confronted in order to stand on the truth that abortion is a sin. A first argument is that abortion is legal, therefore it's not a sin. But what if a law of man violates the law of God? A second argument is that the life in the womb is not fully developed, so therefore it is not human. So, when does human life begin? And what is this "fetus" before it "becomes" a human? A third argument is similar—the life is just human tissue connected to a woman, so it is her property. Again, one must re-define human life to reduce it to a tissue sample! How can a human being be the property of another?

The arguments over abortion continue with this one: The woman has the right to do whatever she wants to with her own body. Again, this presupposes that an unborn baby is just part of a woman's body. Two of the more challenging arguments are: An abortion is right if there has been rape or incest, or if the life of the mother is threatened. If we believe abortion is murder, is murder ever right? Finally, abortionists argue that this is a women's rights issue. Does a woman have the right to do anything she wants?

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

All of your students may be pro-life and against abortion. But, do they know why they are against it? Because so many Christians don't think with a Christian mind, they quickly fold when pressed to defend their positions. So, here's an opportunity for your young people to think through this critical issue. But don't be surprised if you discover a few who are actually pro-abortion! They may actually agree with many of the arguments you ask them to refute. Be patient and kind as you lovingly challenge them to think Biblically and not just emotionally!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 15:31-33

2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Christian Worship

3–5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

The Atheist

6–8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

Is abortion a sin?

30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Give thanks and pray

3–5 mins.

THE **WELCOME** SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET YOUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH A PASSAGE FROM PROVERBS THAT WILL “CALL” THEM TO STUDY AND GROW IN WISDOM!

DRILL TIME GIVES YOUR YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE WILL BE QUESTIONS FROM A PREVIOUS LESSON OR FROM THE SCRIPTURES.



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

Listen to God's Word. **Read Proverbs 15:31-33.**

³¹ The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. ³² Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence. ³³ The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Say: *Are you listening to wisdom, or are you ignoring it? Let's humbly receive instruction today!*



DRILL TIME

First, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *Why do we worship on Sundays? What is the principle that says we worship according to how Scripture tells us to worship God? What is the purpose of the Lord's Day? What are the two Biblical sacraments? Why can't women be pastors or elders? How are the sacraments SIGNS?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. Because it is the Lord's Day—the day Jesus was resurrected from the dead.
2. The Regulative Principle.
3. To rest from our regular work and come together to worship God.
4. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
5. Because the Bible gives ruling and teaching authority to men. Men are to be spiritual leaders in the church.
6. They point to real spiritual realities.

God calls us to worship Him alone!



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: *Each week, we train our minds to think the way God wants us to think. We need to think Biblically in order to defend the truth before a watching world.*

So let's make what we know about being a Christian Apologist very practical. For the next several lessons, we will think through how to do the work of apologetics with a particular type of friend. Here's the first one:

Your friend is an atheist

*What's an atheist? **Allow answers.** Yes, an atheist believes that God does not exist. God is just a human construct that is not based in any reality.*

*So where would you begin with your atheist friend? Would you start by trying to PROVE that God exists? **Allow discussion.***

*Or, would you just begin with praying that the Holy Spirit would change His heart? Is this all you could do? **Allow answers.***

*Or, would you ask questions to see what he really believes about God? What questions would you ask? **Allow answers.***

How about some of these questions? Would they work?

If God doesn't exist, where did we come from?

If God doesn't exist, what is our purpose in life?

If God doesn't exist, where do we go when we die?

*Would you ever ask a friend HOW he became an atheist? Would it be helpful to know how he arrived at his conclusion? **Allow answers.***

Don't give up on your friends who claim to be atheists. Sometimes they just need a friend who will love them with the love of Christ! And, one who will be patient and kind, instead of just judgmental. Yet the atheist does need to be challenged that his presuppositions are wrong, which caused him to arrive at wrong conclusions!

THE **MIND-IN-TRAINING** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO LEARN TO THINK.

THIS ELEMENT TEACHES A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE MIND AS WELL AS USEFUL TOOLS TO ENGAGE YOUNG MINDS.



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

THE BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT TAKES THE STUDENT ALL THROUGH GOD'S WORD, TRAINING THEM TO BE CHRISTIAN APOLOGISTS.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

Introduction: *Today, we will begin a new section of questions that relate to our CHRISTIAN MINDS. In other words, these are cultural and societal issues that Christians need to think Biblically about. Too often, we are silent in the debate about ideas and activities of this world. Yet, as good Apologists, we must engage our minds and defend the truth in a world of deception and lies. So, here's our question of the day:*

Is abortion a sin?

In America, the fight over abortion has been a long-standing one. Way back in 1973, abortion became legal in our nation, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's right. So, let's begin with a definition, and then deal with the common support for abortion.

What is abortion?

Discussion: *Who can define it for me?* **Allow answers.** *A person who is AGAINST abortion would probably define it as: "the murder of an innocent unborn child." A person who SUPPORTS abortion would define it as: "a medical or surgical termination of a pregnancy." Do you see how important definitions are? That leads us to the first argument supporting abortion...*

Argument #1: Abortion is legal, therefore it is not a sin.

Summary: *So, if a person has an abortion in this country, she is not breaking the law. Does that automatically mean she is not violating God's Law?* **Allow answers.** *If abortion is the killing of an unborn child, are there laws in Scripture against that?*

How about this one. **Read Exodus 20:13.**

¹³ "You shall not murder."

Or, this one. **Read Genesis 9:8.**

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."

Discussion: *Just because man says something is legal doesn't mean that God approves of it. Human laws are meant to reflect God's laws. When they are contrary to God's laws, which are Christians to obey? God's laws!*



Argument #2: The life in the womb is not fully developed, therefore it is not human.

Summary: You've probably heard that some people would rather refer to the "life in the womb" as a FETUS instead of a CHILD. This argument is all about that distinction. So, if this FETUS is not really human, then it isn't murder to kill it. But if it isn't a human, then what is it? And, when exactly does this non-human become a human?

Discussion: So how would you respond to this argument? **Allow answers.** First, you need to address this false premise: That a being is only human when it is fully developed! This "fetus" doesn't change into a human at some point—if it has human DNA, it is human, however developed it is! Even if this premise is accepted, when does full development occur? If this argument is saying that life doesn't have VALUE until it is fully developed, then we have yet another problem, don't we? The bottom line is it's impossible to truly argue that the life in the womb is not really human life.

Listen to Jeremiah 1:5. **Read Jeremiah 1:5.**

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Does this sound like a life in the womb is a real person?

Argument #3: The human tissue is produced by the woman, so it is her property.

Summary: Some supporters of abortion don't even call it a fetus—they say it's just human tissue. If it is just tissue, then it belongs to the woman who produced it, right? Then, the logic goes, she can do whatever she wants to with that tissue—sort of like getting a mole or a cyst removed.

Discussion: What do you say about this argument? **Allow answers.** Is a growing person in someone else's body the same as a person's own body tissue? A heart, or a lung, or a kidney is certainly not going to become a human one day. So this "fetal tissue" is qualitatively different. It may technically be "produced" by the woman, but it is a separate person all together (or at least will become one). The baby has its own body, so it is defined by that body—not the mother's. And, does it bother

THIS SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.



you to talk about the baby as “property?” Is this a dog or a houseplant? No, this is a human being, made in the image of God!

Argument #4: The woman has the right to do whatever she wants to do with her body.

Summary: Since this “fetus” is growing inside of the woman, it is technically part of her body. This is where supporters of abortion take the name “pro-choice”—a woman alone has the right to choose what to do with her own body!

Discussion: This is similar to the last argument. So, how would you refute it? **Allow answers.** Can it logically be said that a growing human being is “part” of a woman’s body? At some point, it will no longer be attached to her! Even during the time that this human is “part” of the woman, does she have the right to do anything she wants to her body? Can she cut off her own limbs? Does she have the right to mutilate herself?

What about these verses? **Read I Corinthians 6:19-20.**

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Human beings do not have the right to do anything with their bodies. And, again, a baby is not even really a part of the mother; it is a separate being “carried” by the woman!

Argument #5: In abortion, no one is hurt since the fetus is not a person.

Summary: We have already heard part of this argument. Abortion is not murder because the fetus is not a person. And, there should be no objection, because no one is hurt.

Discussion: Since we have already debunked the myth that a fetus is not a person, what do you do with the rest of this argument? **Allow answers.** Even if you believe the fetus is not a human yet, does the mother and father not get “hurt” in the process of an abortion? Wouldn’t you think that the parents could already have feelings for this baby, and could be psychologically harmed for aborting it? Just because people



want to believe a human is just a fetus doesn't make it so. Abortion is a crime that kills a baby and does great damage to all the family involved!

Argument #6: Rape and incest are reasons for an abortion.

Summary: *If a woman becomes pregnant because of rape or incest, she should not have to give birth to the child. She should have the right to choose to end the pregnancy.*

Discussion: *That's a tough one, isn't it? Rape and incest are certainly horrible crimes that can produce a child in the womb. So, how can Christians be against abortion in these cases? **Allow answers.** As my mother used to say: "Two wrongs don't make a right." Just because we sympathize with a woman and agree that she has been wronged, doesn't mean it becomes right to murder a child. And, is it the baby's fault that he or she was conceived by rape or incest?*

Argument #7: Abortion is justified to save the life of the mother.

Summary: *If there is a medical problem or crisis, and the only way to save the mother's life is to abort the baby, then it isn't wrong.*

Discussion: *This is another tough argument that Christians can stumble over. Of course, we would want to save both lives, if possible. But if we have to choose, whose life is more important? And, why not just choose to try to save both lives and trust God for the outcome? What are your thoughts? **Allow answers.** Taking the life of the baby in this case is not simply a choice to abort—it's truly a tough life and death decision.*

Argument #9: Denying abortion is restricting women's rights.

Summary: *Abortion has become deeply connected with the movement for women's rights. No man should be able to tell a woman what she can do with her body.*

Discussion: *Again, we have heard this argument already. What do you say about it? **Allow answers.** Do any of us have unlimited rights in this life? Does a woman have the right to murder an innocent baby?*

Conclusion: Abortion is a sin.

- *It is wrong to murder a person.*
- *An unborn baby in the womb is a person.*





- *An unborn baby cannot defend himself.*
- *A unborn baby is made in the image of God.*
- *Christians are to protect human life!*

According to God's Law, abortion is a sin. But, that's not the end of the story. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, even the sin of abortion can be forgiven. So as you defend the truth about abortion, don't forget to sympathize with people's weakness and share the love of Christ for sinners!



MIND-IN-ACTION

Each week, we end our time together with a MIND-IN-ACTION section.

So, here is my challenge to you as we close today:

Thank the LORD that you weren't aborted!

You probably don't do that very often, do you? Too often we just neglect the miracle of birth and how God is sovereign over life. He conceived of you even before you were in your mother's womb. And He alone kept you from being aborted. That's the love of God for you! So praise God that you are alive and have the opportunity to have new life in Christ!

The second part of my challenge is this:

Pray for mothers, fathers, and unborn babies.

Again, this isn't probably something you do too often. We often take for granted the very difficult process of pregnancy and giving birth. You may find out one day how hard it is! So pray for those around you who are pregnant. Pray for the safety of the baby. Pray that they choose life instead of abortion, if that is something they are struggling with. Pray for God's hand of protection on the most vulnerable of children!

Close in prayer.

THE **MIND-IN-ACTION** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO MOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ACTION. AS THEIR MINDS GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO GROW IN WISDOM. THEY WILL NEVER TRULY LEARN IF THEY DON'T PUT WHAT THEY HAVE STUDIED INTO PASSIONATE ACTION!