

3. CHILDREN

This section is the heart of the study, because children are the victims of abortion. Ultimately the issue of abortion centers on children—and not just the ones in the womb. The Bible makes it clear that we are all God’s children, the work of His hands. A great truth is that the pregnant mother, expectant father, parents, grandparents and siblings are all God’s children—and, perhaps even more than the preborn baby, are in need of rescue from the hand of the enemy. These Scriptures will unveil God’s plan for us from conception to natural death and how much God loves His children! After all, in Mark 10:14 Jesus said, “The kingdom of God belongs to such as these (children).”

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

1 JOHN 3:1

Following God’s example, what is a father supposed to lavish on his children?

What privileges come with being a child?

When we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, we become adopted sons and daughters of God (Ephesians 1:4, 5). What is the difference between a biological child and an adopted child?

Since God is our Father, what sort of inheritance should we expect?

For us to be God's adopted child, whom must we know?

How is our Heavenly Father different from our earthly father? After whom should we model our parenting style?

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

ROMANS 8:16, 17

What does it mean to be an heir?

What two things will we share with Christ as we live for the Lord?

What sort of suffering do you think will be experienced by the body of Christ as we follow Jesus and endeavor to end abortion?

Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels He helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people.

HEBREWS 2:14–17

How do these Scriptures reveal that we are all God’s children?

What was God willing to do because He loved us?

Who used to hold the power of death? Who holds it now?

What kind of a high priest do we have?

Can anything erase the atonement of Christ?

Do you believe Jesus paid for all your sins—past, present and future?

Read Luke 8:43–56 and Acts 17:24–31.

What does Jesus say to the woman who touched Him and to the sick girl?

What sort of power does Jesus display? How does this reveal His Lordship over creation?

Who made every nation of men? _____

Who will judge the world?

If you don't currently understand the reality of your adoption by God, meditate on these Scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you your cherished position as a son or daughter of God. Let's turn our attention to the womb and God's plan for us from the beginning.

For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

PSALM 139:13–16

When do these verses suggest that personhood begins?

How involved is God with your DNA and personal unique creation?

Does this passage validate a zygote and early cell stages of fetal development as fully human?

Who is given credit for the creation of life in the womb? _____

When did God write a life plan for you?

Are you beginning to see how valued and loved you are by God?

*As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb,
so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

ECCLESIASTES 11:5

How awesome and beyond our comprehension is God?

Who alone is the maker of all things? _____

The following are specific individuals from Scripture who were formed and known in the womb:

- Jeremiah—Jeremiah 1:5
- Sampson—Judges 13:2–24
- David—Psalm 139
- Paul—Galations 1:11–16
- Isaac—Genesis 17:17–22
- Job and his male and female servants—Job 31:13–15
- John the Baptist and Jesus—Luke 1:1–44

God values all children in the womb. **Read Exodus 21:22–24.** Differing opinions on the meaning of this verse can be found, but if God did not value the child’s life in the womb it seems unlikely that He would have mentioned that the woman was pregnant at all.

*Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.
She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.”*

GENESIS 4:1

What does Eve’s statement convey about her knowledge of God and children?

The following Scriptures help us see God’s purpose and intention for children.

*Has not the Lord, made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking
godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.*

MALACHI 2:15

What is one of the primary purposes for marriage according to this Scripture?

Why is it important to remain abstinent until marriage?

What is at stake if you violate God’s commands and engage in adultery and fornication?

Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him.

PSALM 127:3

How are children a blessing?

Is there such a thing as an unwanted child, from God's point of view?

Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

PROVERBS 17:6

Does God have a plan and a role for each member of the family?

Explain how children bring hope, youth and a future to their families and cultures.

How does abortion keep parents from being the pride of their children and negatively impact a young adult's future?

How does this Scripture impact you when you understand that you are God's child and He is your Father?

He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands.

PSALM 78:5-7

Does God have a plan for children yet to be born?

What do you think we have missed as a nation by allowing 50 million abortions?

Godly offspring play a vital role in assuring salvation for whom?

Before we leave this section on children, let's take a look at what the Bible says is the wrong way to treat them.

Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. All men will hate you because of Me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

MARK 13:12, 13

Jesus said these would be signs in the last days. Which ones describe abortion?

Should we expect opposition and hatred if we speak up for preborn babies?

Who will give us the courage to stand firm?

And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to Me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough? You slaughtered My children and sacrificed them to the idols. In all your detestable practices and your prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood.

EZEKIEL 16:20-22

How is abortion similar to child sacrifice?

What are some of the idols we serve when we abort our children?

What is the link between sexual immorality and abortion or child sacrifice?

What perspective do adults forget when they are committing or procuring an abortion?

What is God's tone concerning abortion?

What does this passage reveal about the differences between our perspective and God's?

Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands'? Woe to him who says to his father, 'What have you begotten?' or to his mother, 'What have you brought to birth?'

This is what the Lord says—the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: concerning things to come, do you question me about My children, or give Me orders about the work of My hands? It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

ISAIAH 45:9–12

What is a potsherd? _____

What does the first part of this Scripture say about the fear of the Lord and pride?

How are these Scriptures a warning to those who argue that the unborn are not persons?

Are the children in question man's or God's?

How many children are we talking about?

In case you forgot, who is the creator of all things? _____

What does this passage indicate about humility and reverence?

Even when man goes astray, the Lord still loves and protects His children. The following Scriptures are warnings, instructions and promises concerning children from the Lord.

Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

MATTHEW 18:4-6

How are abortion and sexual immorality the opposite of humility?

Choosing life instead of death is an act of what to God?

How much does God despise the destruction of His children?

But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7, 11, 12

How should parents treat and care for their children?

Do you believe, no matter what your sins have been that God will treat you this way?

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands; your walls are ever before Me.

ISAIAH 49:15, 16

How can we use compassion to address the painful issue of abortion?

When times get rough and your closest ally betrays you, who can you trust?

Did you know God loved you enough to write your name on His hands?

Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

ISAIAH 46:3, 4

What does this verse indicate about the love of God and His power?

Is every part of your life journey precious to God?

What do you find the most comforting about this verse and God?
