

Growth Groups Lesson
January 29-30
Sanctity of Human Life Weekend

Big Idea: All of life is precious to God, because He has created and sustains it all. As God loves and protects the lives and dignity of the innocent, we partner with Him to love, protect, and serve others.

This week, we will be taking time to pray for the organizations that we will be partnering with for Sanctity of Human Life weekend. If you would like to get involved in other ways, you may give to the special offering as well as volunteer at one of these organizations (what a great way to begin this year's group life!).

Spend time praying for each of these organizations. Here are some ways that you can pray, though there are many more:

1. That God would use their ministry to change the lives of many people: Protecting, loving, and serving preborn children, women and children in trafficking and abusive circumstances, women who are considering or have had an abortion, etc.
2. The Gospel would be shared with all of the people they come in contact with.
3. That many people would hear about these organizations and choose to go to them for help. That those people would be able to consistently be involved in the care they provide.
4. God would provide the necessary resources that they need: money, volunteers, prayer, people to care for, etc.
5. That God would bring people from Good Shepherd to join in serving in these areas, and that it would change and transform our church because of their passion to serve.
6. It would shape our city and community to know and follow Jesus.
7. That we would be motivated by love to continue praying and being involved with these organizations

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap-Oregon works alongside law enforcement and other community partners to provide resources and support to sexually exploited and other complex trauma survivors. They are developing a comprehensive, secure mobile app featuring advanced technology for law enforcement and victim advocates. The app includes an integrated "real time" alert system, a directory of local service providers and members, available resources, and connecting victim needs to community partners who can help. Bridging the Gap is also taking steps to start an Oregon anti-human trafficking coalition this year.

First Image

Good Shepherd has had a strong partnership with First Image for many, many years. They are local to us, both in Gresham and Portland. They are a faith based nonprofit that provides pregnancy related services, education and support through Pregnancy Resource Centers, as well as HEART, a biblically based support and recovery groups for men and women who've experienced abortion.

Garden of Hope Ministries

Exists to provide support and encouragement to women facing unplanned pregnancy as they explore their options and/or prepare for parenthood, and to anyone that is facing pain and regret from past abortion(s). They believe each new day offers promises of hope, healing, and joy because of the love of Jesus. Their vision is that all people, both inside and outside of the womb, are treated with equal value and worth and come to know redemptive and abundant life in Christ. They accomplish this through: peaceful sidewalk advocacy and evangelism, classroom and youth group sharing/interacting, post-abortion healing/grief pathways; one on one mentoring/advocacy; and a bridge to local resources and the local church. Mark and Tina Fortin are establishing this ministry at a house they recently acquired off of Foster road.

Life International

Through partnership with global Christian leaders, men and women who are equipped to proclaim God's love for all human beings, from conception to natural death, local followers of Christ are then empowered to respond to the devaluation of human life in their communities through the development of life-giving ministries. As a result, preborn children are given life, women and men find healing after abortion, and people embrace the hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Obria

Obria Medical Clinics Oregon is a life affirming and accredited reproductive medical clinic. They serve men, women, and children. Their mission is to provide medical and educational services to equip individuals to make healthy choices related to pregnancy, relationships, and parenting. They serve Linn, Marion, and Clackamas counties with their two brick and mortar locations and one mobile location. Obria Medical Clinics are fully-licensed community care clinics providing professional medical consultations, well woman care, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STD testing and treatment, pre-abortion screenings, abortion education, abortion pill reversal, prenatal care, health education and referrals. Their mission is based on their calling to share Jesus' love with their clients through compassionate and life affirming care and education.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Discuss your experience of praying for these organizations.
2. Has God put in your heart to serve at one of these organizations? Or a completely different organization or ministry within or outside Good Shepherd?
3. Have you ever been consistently involved in serving in one particular organization or ministry? Share your experience with the group.
 - a. How did that change your relationship with God?
 - b. How did that change your relationship with others?
4. One of the main purposes of serving and protecting others is to share and model the Gospel with them so that they may know and be transformed by Jesus. Have you shared the Gospel with anyone recently? What was that like for you?
 - a. If not, who would you like to share the Gospel with? Do you need help from your group in doing that?
5. How can your group work together to love and serve your neighborhood and community this week?