

**Transition:**

The more time we spend with God, we understand Him and become more like Christ. Life itself was God's idea. From the beginning in Genesis 1, got created plants, insects, fish and animals – the earth was teeming with life. But God's pinnacle of creation was man – the only creature created in His own image. Because of the sanctity of human life, mankind is commanded in the Ten Commandments to not murder. He tells Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." David says, "You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." Jesus continued this deep care for human life in His ministry with healing, miracles and acts of compassion.

**Tell the story:**

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

**Rebuild the story:**

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What would possess someone to follow Jesus for three days to the point of being in the middle of nowhere with no food?
2. Is there a significance to the amount of baskets leftover (seven) compared to the feeding of the 5,000 (twelve)?

**Fundamental:**

Sanctity of life - Every human life, from conception through death, is to be valued, respected, nurtured, and protected. Every human life is to be lived in obedience to God and His Word. The Bible describes a moral order to which all persons are responsible. At the end of life, all persons will stand before God to give account for their actions. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, human beings are responsible to bring the light of God's Word to decisions that bear on the sanctity of life.

1. Scripture says that Jesus had compassion on the crowd – the Greek word literally means that His bowels were moved. Why would He care so much for this crowd? He had already given them so much over a three-day period.
2. Is all life sacred? Embryo? Infant? Invalid? Criminal?
3. Abortion has become a political issue – where should a Christ-follower stand? What can a Christ-follower do in light of what we believe the Scriptures teach?

**Homework/Challenge:**

1. Make a commitment to serve at a food bank, feed homeless, visit assisted living facilities, or go to an abortion clinic to have conversations (not necessarily protest).
2. Please read Matthew 16 in preparation for next week.

**Discipleship Tip:**

Many females feel disqualified because they have had an abortion. They believe that God cannot love them, forgive them or use them for His kingdom. Have hard conversations. Show them Scriptures about how God sees His children and forgives them.

**Prayer:**

Lord, show us Your heart for human life. Give us compassion like Jesus to not just pray, but go out be the hands and feet of Christ.