



Group Discussion Guide: Protecting Children | July 18, 2021

Begin with silence + prayer (5 minutes).

Read Psalm 139:13-18. Once finished, spend a few moments in prayerful silence. Then, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

You might even use this prayer from Ruth Haley Barton’s book *Life Together in Christ*:

*Lord Jesus, stay with us,
For evening is at hand and the day is almost past;
Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and
awaken hope,
That we may know you as you are revealed in
Scripture and in the breaking of bread.
Grant this for the sake of your love.
Amen.*

Recap your week and share what you’re looking forward to in this series (5-10 minutes).

- What were your highs and lows from this past week?

Read this paragraph: For this week in our “Sons and Daughters” series, our goal is to think about “protecting children” in a compassionate and loving way. We don’t want to be in conflict with our brothers and sisters in Christ. But we do want to hold to God’s vision for human flourishing. We want to be a people who have a consistent pro-life ethic from womb to the tomb.



- What sort of ground rules do we need to have in place for our discussion tonight (such as grace, respectfulness, questions are welcome, honor one another, suspend judgment, etc.)
- When you think of the topic “Sons and Daughters” and talking about issues like protecting children, what feelings and questions do you have?

Split into smaller groups of three or four to read Scripture and answer these questions as a debrief of the sermon (30 minutes). *Have each person share their thoughts on the Scriptures and questions below.*

- **Read Genesis 1-2; Psalm 119:73a, 139:13-16; Job 10:11-12; Matthew 19:13-14; Luke 1:39-45; Galatians 1:15.**
- What does the Bible have to say about the pre-born?
- Why do you think issues of abortion seem so complex in our culture today?
- What beliefs (about human nature, the body, liberty, freedom) do people who affirm a pro-choice stance hold to? What beliefs do people who affirm a pro-life stance hold to? How do these beliefs (differing or similar) contribute to some of the tension in the conversation surrounding pro-choice/pro-life debates today?

Transition back to a large group for recap (20-25 minutes).

- What were some of noteworthy things that came from your smaller group discussion?
- What from this past weekend’s sermon resonated with you or did you find interesting?
- Did anything challenge you? If so, what?
- How do you think Christians should act towards those who are struggling with this issue, especially those in their same-faith family?
- What would it look like for your group to love and have compassion on parents who have made the choice to have an abortion?



- How can you and your life group protect the lives of the children in your circle of influence and advocate for the unborn?

Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (15-20 minutes). *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- How are you and the Lord these days?
- How has it been in pointing your friends and family towards Jesus this week with your words and actions?
- What has your prayer time been like this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

Take a few moments to pray as a group over each other for resilient devotion to God this week.

Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.