

Review:

Lesson 1: Life Begins w/Jesus

Lesson 2: In God's Image

Lesson 3: Abundant Life

Lesson 4: Finding Hope

Lesson 5: All About Love

Lesson 6: Future Glory

Lesson 7: Diverse Community

Lesson 8: Disabilities

Lesson 9: Embodiment

Lesson 10: The Pre-Born

Advocacy

Proverbs 31:8-9

God's expectation of humans created in His image is that we will love each other well, and especially those who are marginalized in our culture. Our first and best motive for this is our _____.

Discussion 1. Why do you suppose God makes our love for Him our first and best motive for loving others? Why not just trust us to love others well because they are fellow human beings?

Part of being human means there may be times in our lives when we need an advocate, someone to speak on our behalf, and perhaps someone to _____ for a while.

Discussion 2. Can you recall a time when you needed someone to speak out on your behalf or to carry you forward when you could not get there on your own? If so, what did you learn about yourself in those circumstances?

As humans created in God's image, our hearts should align with His; we should give voice to the voiceless and _____ for those who cannot stand for themselves.

Discussion 3. Sometimes our standing with someone who cannot stand for themselves is a one-time thing and sometimes it becomes a whole calling for us. Is there a particular "marginalized" group to whom you have felt called to minister on a regular basis? How did that "calling" come to you?

Christian advocacy is about more than just speaking...it is about getting our hands dirty and _____ that actually brings about justice in someone's life; and for us, the cost will typically outweigh any social benefit we might get.

Discussion 4. What ministries are you aware of in your church that are actually making lives better, i.e., bringing some balance or justice into people's lives? With what ministries (inside or outside your church) or other humanitarian organizations are you involved which are making a difference in people's lives?