

Use “The Scene” to introduce “The Team, the Whole Team, and Nothing but the Team” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for March 1, 2020. The lesson is found on page 5 of *Young Teen Teacher* by 21st Century Christian.

the SCENE

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

With the recent appointments of a number of federal judges who tend to rule on the more conservative side of politics, many people in the pro-life movement are hoping and praying that judgments will be made that make it harder for abortions to happen. But according to the Pew Research Center, public opinion about the legality of abortion has not changed much in two decades: 61% of people say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 38% say it should be illegal. Even when looking at people with religious affiliations, nearly two-thirds of black Protestants, about the same number of mainline Protestants, and even 56% of Catholics agree that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Only in the case of white evangelical Protestants do we find a significant majority (77%) saying that abortion should be illegal.

Some hospitals (particularly those operated by Catholic organizations) have come under fire for their stated policies that prohibit doctors from performing abortions. In other situations, the religious rights of individual doctors working in public hospitals are coming under attack as court cases are decided about whether their willingness to perform abortions can be part of the criteria for their employment.

Meanwhile, scientists and researchers around the world have been debating and questioning the generally agreed standard (which is law in some countries) that states that research and experimentation on human embryos may only take place up until 14 days after origination. This particular time was agreed on because researchers acknowledged this is the point at which the central nervous system appears, and it's the time at which an embryo can no longer split into twins.

The idea here, as a National Public Radio report stated, was that since the embryo can no longer split into two (or more), this is the point at which an embryo becomes a “unique individual” (Rob Stein, *Morning Edition*, March 2, 2017).

“A unique individual what?” a person might well ask. Apparently, more than half the country would answer that question one way, while the others might disagree passionately.

The value of human life, every human life, will continue to come into question in the court cases coming in future years. Some people are placing more weight and importance on the rights of those who are fully grown humans, walking about, making choices in their lives. But questions remain. Whose rights are more important? Which life matters?

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

What thoughts or impressions come to your mind as you read this article?

Some people argue that women should have easy access to abortions because women have the right to do what they want with their own bodies. What questions would you want to ask people who make this argument?

It's clear in the Bible that God loves every person. No one is more important to him than anyone else. How do you see this truth lived out in your life?

Most of the time, we deal with self-importance in more trivial matters of our lives than the question of abortion rights. But how we value people in small matters can lead to bigger decisions. What happens when one person considers himself more important than others? Let's look at this today.





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