



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 8: Protect

Suggested Week of Use: January 21, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 9:1-15

News Story Summary

On January 5, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the state of Idaho could continue enforcing a “Defense of Life Act” that makes it a crime for any person to perform an abortion. A lower court had blocked enforcement of the law, but the Supreme Court’s ruling lifts that stay while justices prepare to consider the case later this year.

The only exception under the Idaho law would be when an abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman. The Supreme Court expects to hear the full case in April.

The federal government contends the Idaho law cannot be enforced because hospitals that receive government funding cannot limit the services provided. Idaho officials argue that their law is not in tension with any federal law because the federal law does not specifically indicate that doctors are required to perform abortions in certain circumstances.

For more about this story, search “Supreme Court Idaho Abortion.”

Engage

To supplement the “Engage” activities, write the following statement on the board: *All human life is valuable.* Ask: *As a Christ follower, what does this statement mean to you? Why is all human life valuable to God?* Discuss how people are made in God’s image and, as such, we represent His character when we also value all human life. Share the information about Idaho’s “Defense of Life Act.” Lead a brief discussion on how this Act could support the value of all human life. Share that this session is a “Sanctity of Human Life” session and will focus on the value of all human life—from the unborn to the elderly. Encourage adults to respond to the last question in Engage (Leader Guide, p. 91).

Challenge

To supplement the “Challenge” activities, lead adults to discuss how they can talk about current news stories, such as Idaho’s “Defense of Life Act,” in a way that represents God well and demonstrates the way He values all life. Ask: *How can a believer’s attitude, when discussing difficult topics that come with strong opinions, reflect the value God places on people?* Emphasize that God calls His people to reflect His values and priorities in this world. Ask: *What does that mean specifically when focusing on the sanctity of human life?* Close the session in prayer as directed on page 98 of the Leader Guide.