



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 8: Protection (Sanctity of Human Life)

Suggested Week of Use: January 19, 2025

Core Passage: Exodus 22:21-27; Leviticus 19:9-10

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### News Story Summary

January 22 marks the fifty-second anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling on *Roe v. Wade*. In that decision, the Court determined that the constitutional right to privacy under the Fourteenth Amendment extended to a woman's choice to terminate a pregnancy. This decision was overturned in June 2022 by the *Dobbs* decision, which returned the authority to regulate abortion to individual states.

*Dobbs* was far from being a "mission accomplished" moment for the pro-life movement, however. According to the Associated Press, the abortion rate has stayed the same or slightly increased nationwide since 2022. In the first half of 2024, nearly 100,000 abortions were performed each month, compared to 88,000 per month in 2023 and 81,000 per month in 2022.

On a more positive note, more people are putting their newborn infants up for adoption. Also, states with abortion restrictions or bans are seeing an increase in children entering foster care.

For more information on this story, search "national abortion trends after *Dobbs* decision."

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, remind group members that churches across the country are focusing on Sanctity of Human Life issues this week. Summarize the information about abortion rates using the news content provided above. Ask: *Are you optimistic that rates of abortion will fall and rates of adoption/fostering will increase? Why? Other than abortion, what other issues could be categorized as sanctity of human life issues?*

Share that in this session, the Lord will demonstrate the value He places on human life. Say: *We'll study some topics that you might not automatically identify as sanctity of human life issues, but approaching these from a biblical perspective will affirm the value of every person.*

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, summarize God's commands about foreigners and widows, fair money-lending practices, and harvesting crops. Review the information about abortions used earlier in the session and discuss how all these topics affirm the sanctity of human life. Say: *We need to remember that the sanctity of human life is about more than abortion.* Discuss how your Bible study group and church can be more responsive to all vulnerable people.