

A photograph showing a woman's hands holding a printed ultrasound image of a fetus. The image is partially obscured by a purple diagonal overlay on the left side. The woman is wearing a ring on her left hand. The ultrasound image shows a fetus in a curled position, with some technical data visible at the top.

*Sanctity of  
Human Life*

# PROTECT HUMAN LIFE

God values every life He creates. We must value and protect human life.

## **GENESIS 9:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Have many children; grow in number and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup>“Every animal on earth, every bird in the sky, every animal that crawls on the ground, and every fish in the sea will respect and **fear** you. I have given them to

you. <sup>3</sup>“Everything that moves, everything that is alive, is yours for food. Earlier I gave you the green plants, but now I give you everything for food. <sup>4</sup>“But you must not eat meat that still has blood in it, because blood gives life. <sup>5</sup>“I will demand blood for life. I will demand the life of any animal that kills a person, and I will demand the life of anyone who takes another person’s life. <sup>6</sup>“Whoever kills a human being will be killed by a human being, because God made humans in His own image. <sup>7</sup>“As for you, Noah, I want you and your family to have many children, to grow in number on the earth, and to become many.”

## PSALM 8:4-8

<sup>4</sup>But why are people even important to you? Why do you take care of human beings? <sup>5</sup>You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You put them in charge of everything you made. You put all things under their control: <sup>7</sup>All the sheep, the cattle, and the wild animals, <sup>8</sup>The birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that lives under water.

## PROVERBS 24:10-12

<sup>10</sup>If you give up when trouble comes, it shows that you are weak. <sup>11</sup>Save those who are being led to their death; rescue those who are about to be killed. <sup>12</sup>If you say, “We don’t know anything about this,” God, who knows what’s in your mind, will notice. He is watching you, and he will know. He will reward each person for what he has done.



## PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16A

<sup>12</sup> *My dear friends, you have always obeyed God when I was with you. It is even more important that you obey now while I am away from you. Keep on working to complete your salvation with **fear** and trembling,* <sup>13</sup> *Because God is working in you to help you want to do and be able to do what pleases him.* <sup>14</sup> *Do everything without complaining or arguing.* <sup>15</sup> *Then you will be innocent and without any wrong. You will be God's children without fault. But you are living with crooked and mean people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world.* <sup>16</sup> *You offer the teaching that gives life. So when Christ comes again, I can be happy because my work was not wasted. I ran the race and won.*

## FIRST THOUGHTS

In the world today, many people do not value the lives of other people. We have laws that allow people to end the lives of unborn babies. Some states have discussed passing laws to allow doctors to help people kill themselves if they are elderly or sick.

As believers there are some spiritual truths we accept. We believe God created humans in His own image. He enjoys fellowship with us. He put humans in charge of everything on earth.

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

The Bible tells us in the beginning God created humans in His own image. He was pleased with His creation. He said it was good.

Then humans began to disobey God. Their sin became so bad God sent a flood to cover the whole earth. After the flood, God again said people were made in His image.

# EXPLORE THE TEXT

## 1. Part of Our Purpose (Genesis 9:1-7)

### VERSE 1

God blessed Noah and his sons. God said they must have many children and descendants. God places great value on human life.

### VERSES 2-3

In the first chapter of Genesis, God gave man control over every living animal. He gave Adam and Eve instructions about eating the grain and plants of the earth. He did not mention eating animals. In these verses, God allows humans to eat animals for food.

### VERSE 4

Humans must not eat meat that still has blood in it. Remember this verse, “Blood gives life.” It is a very important verse.

### VERSES 5-6

God said animals and people must be killed if they kill a human being. God allows people in authority to punish a person who kills another person. If a person kills another person, he is telling God His image is not important and he does not care about God’s creation.

### VERSE 7

God said to Noah, “Have many children, grow in numbers and fill the whole earth.” God loves His creation. He loves the people He made. He wants the earth to be full of His people.

Write in the missing words:

People are created in \_\_\_\_\_’s image.

God told Noah to grow in \_\_\_\_\_.

“Blood gives \_\_\_\_\_.”



## 2. God Values Us (Psalm 8:4-8)

David wrote Psalm 8. He was amazed at the order in which God created things. He said creating people was like a crown on the work of God in creation.

### **DID YOU KNOW:** ...*about Human Life?*

God values all human life. Read Exodus 20:13 and 1 Peter 1:18-19.

#### **VERSE 4**

David asked God how He could care about something as small as a person. We are like a grain of sand when compared to the universe. God loves us and takes care of us because we are made in His image.

#### **VERSE 5**

Angels are the heavenly beings who surround God's throne. They live to worship God and obey His commands. People are made just a little lower than the angels. People must also worship God and obey His commands.

Glory and honor are like crowns for people. When God made everything except people, He said it was good. When He added people to the things He made, He said it was very good.

### **BIBLE SKILL:** *God was pleased with His creation.*

Compare Genesis 1:31 with Psalm 8:4-5.

**How did God show He was pleased when He made people?**

#### **VERSES 6-7**

God wants us to act like His representatives here on earth. We must care for each other and for all creatures the same way God cares for them.

**Write in the missing words.**

**God made people a little lower than the \_\_\_\_\_.**

God gave people \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

God gave \_\_\_\_\_ control over every creature on earth.

### **3. We Are Called to Action (Proverbs 24:10-12; Philippians 2:12-16a)**

#### **VERSE 10**

We believe abortion is a sin because God said it is a sin. Many people disagree with us. Sometimes it is difficult for believers to be strong against them. If we give up, it shows we are weak.

#### **VERSE 11**

God loves all people no matter if they are disabled, sick or old. Some countries kill disabled children. Other countries have laws that permit doctors to help people kill themselves because they are sick or old. We must stand strong for the things we believe.

#### **VERSE 12**

God knows our minds and hearts. We cannot hide anything from Him. God will reward each of us for the things we do.

#### **VERSES 12-13**

Paul encouraged the Philippians believers to continue to do the will of God. He told them to work and act with respect: God is working in us to help us want to do His will. God will help us want to do the things that please Him.

#### **VERSES 14-15**

We need to do things that please God without complaining or arguing. Believers need to shine like God's stars. Why? When people around us are crooked and mean, we must be light in a dark world.

#### **VERSE 16a**

We have life through the blood of Jesus. Elderly people, disabled people, and unborn babies have life because they have blood.

**Name three things you can do to be sure your actions are pleasing to God:** 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



## IN MY CONTEXT

Do you care about human life? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Do you ignore the problems around you? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

God loves human life.

Does that mean you should love human life also? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Do you love all human life? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Is an unborn baby important to God? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Why do you think that? \_\_\_\_\_.

Why are human beings important to God? \_\_\_\_\_

Think about how today's lesson is connected to your life. Think about times in your life when you had to explain your beliefs about human life.

Were you able to give Bible verses to support your beliefs?

List some verses you want to remember from today's lesson.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMORY VERSE

*"You offer the teaching that gives life."* —Philippians 2:16

# PROTECT HUMAN LIFE

God values every life He creates. We must value and protect human life.

## PLAN AHEAD

Suggested teaching method: Scripture search.

Suggested hymn: "Speak to My Heart."

## EXPLORE THE TEXT (GENESIS 9:1-7; PSALM 8:4-8; PROVERBS 24:10-12; PHILIPPIANS 2:12-17A)

### 1. Part of Our Purpose (Genesis 9:1-7)

**Verses 12-17.** Life is sacred to God and should be sacred to us, also.

Ask: "What responsibility do we, as His people, have to protect the life of others?" "Is placing value on human life part of our purpose in life?"

**How does God's demand for the death of a murderer balance with His love for life?**

### 2. God Values Us (Psalm 8:4-8)

**Verses 4-8.** God values all of His creation, especially His people.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH: *The Image of God*

The Bible is not specific as to exactly what is the image of God. It's not just one characteristic or a combination of things. Everything about us is an image God. Read Genesis 1:26. The idea in Genesis is that we are a likeness of God.



When you think of the greatness of God's creation, how do you feel about His care for you?

How does human dominion require responsible action as stewards over God's creation?

### 3. We Are Called to Action (Proverbs 24:10-12; Philippians 2:12-16a)

**Verses 24:10-12, 2:12-16a.** These Scripture verses show how God's value for human life is a thread woven through the Bible from Old Testament through New Testament.

#### **DIG DEEPER:** *Work to Complete Your Salvation*

It is easy to misunderstand Paul's words in Philippians 2:12. Someone may think it means Christians must work to earn their salvation. But Paul is writing to Christians who already know Christ's salvation. They know they received salvation as a free gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-10). Paul's word in Greek refers to working in a silver mine. It means to get all they could from that mine. So Christians must work hard to get all the wonderful riches that their salvation in Christ has for them.

Paul also wrote to do that with **fear** and trembling. This does not mean the **fear** of a slave in front of a cruel master. It means the honor that we should give to our holy and powerful God.

How does our view of accountability to God cause us to act as we do?

How should our salvation influence our work in defending the life of other people?

