

## **Brave and Beloved Study Guide**

1. Whenever we talk about a controversial issue such as abortion we wade into one of three pools:

- **Christian Ethics Pool:** What does the Bible have to say? What does God expect from his people? How does it relate to today?
  - **Christian Empathy Pool:** What is best for vulnerable women? How does the church care for women with unsupported or unplanned pregnancies? How could Christians do a better job of loving?
  - **Public Policy Pool:** How should we vote? What laws must we stand up for? How politically engaged should Christians be?
- Which pool do you feel most comfortable wading into when discussing this issue?
  - What are the dangers of staying primarily in one pool?

### **2. Read Genesis 1:26-27 aloud**

- What do you notice in this passage?
- How are we like God somehow?
- What are the implications of being an image bearer of God?

3. The moral spiritual nature that makes us so unique has been passed down from God to all humans, meaning regardless of our attitude toward God we have a Divine imprint on us.

- If we regularly looked at people with such honor how might it impact our conversations surrounding abortion?

4. How would you score on the empathy-meter regarding your attitude toward women who have an unplanned pregnancy and/or decide to have an abortion?

### **5. Read John 8:2-11 aloud**

- How does Jesus masterfully teach us how to interact with someone broken by sin?
- How would you articulate hope to a woman who is haunted by her past and unable to digest the forgiveness that God offers?

6. What can CFC as an organization do better? What can CFC as a collection of Christ-followers do better?

## Message Slides

### Framework for tackling challenging issues.

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### Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them

### Genesis 5:3

When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

### Psalms 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

## **Real pain, real people**

Psychological effects of abortion: 20% of women admit to experiencing regret, depression, and other emotional and psychological reactions after an abortion. (AMA)

"No one wants an abortion as she wants an ice-cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal, caught in a trap, wants to gnaw off its own leg." - Frederica Mathewes-Green

"My life changed that day as death came into my soul along with guilt, shame and anger. I crossed a bridge with God then, believing I no longer deserved to be in His presence. He didn't leave me. I left Him." - Sydna Masse

## **John 8:2-11**

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

## **Beloved and Brave Healing Group**

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