

Capital Area Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Blast

Between May 10th and June 21st, Mother's Day to Father's Day, pick up a baby bottle at the Welcome Center or the Awesome Adventure pick-up counters and fill it with coins, bills, and checks to bless the patients at Capital Area Pregnancy Center. The bottles are a great reminder to pray for the women and men who face a pregnancy decision.

Please return bottles to the Welcome Center in the main lobby by Sunday, June 21st.

Life as God Sees It is a four-part devotional series to help you reflect on God's view of human life. You can go through it on your own or with your family. Each week you will find a main idea, scripture verses, reflection questions, kids' connection and a suggested prayer approach, using the ACTS prayer model.

Week 1 – The God who Creates Life

Idea: Life is sacred because God is the author of life. We are His creation, made in His image, and through His work we see that every human life reflects the image of God. Finally, we remember that the sanctity of life is a theological conviction, not a political slogan.

Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Psalms 139:13-16 - For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Reflect: Do I see every person, born and unborn, as an image-bearer of God?

Kids Connection: Show your child/ren a picture of an ultrasound picture! Point out the baby’s tiny nose, hands, feet, etc.

Suggested Prayer Approach using the ACTS prayer model:

Lord, I praise ... you for being the Creator and Sustainer of all life.

I confess that ...

Thank you ... for your patience, gentleness, and goodness as I grow in my understanding of You and Your precious people.

I pray ... for women who currently face an unplanned pregnancy.

Week 2 – The God who Gives Purpose and Meaning

Idea: God takes joy in his people, and he desires a close relationship with each of us. In Him, our existence finds direction, our actions find significance, and our lives find their true meaning. We can rest in the knowledge that the Lord delights in us and has purpose for us.

Ephesians 2:1 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Isaiah 58:11 – And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Reflect: How do I see and embrace the purpose and meaning that God has for my life?

Kids Connection: Everyone is unique! Celebrate differences and encourage empathy and emotional intelligence by talking about how we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” Ask your kids in what way did God make them special? Their siblings? Their friends?

Suggested Prayer Approach using the ACTS prayer model:

Lord, I praise You ... that You are the Alpha, the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

I confess that I ...

Thank You ... that you chose me and gave me life.

I pray ... for those that do not know the value of their lives. Open my eyes to the people who are struggling with understanding of your purpose for them. Give me the wisdom and words to encourage the people around me into your destiny for them.

Week 3 – The God who Heals Brokenness

Idea: A biblical view of life is full of grace, healing, and restoration. This means that the sanctity of life includes tenderness and mercy for past decisions. We believe wholeheartedly that Jesus meets people in their shame and restores dignity. When we choose to support life, we also support healing!

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 4:7-26 - A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Reflect: How do I extend the same grace Jesus extended to the woman at the well?

Kids Connection: We can find forgiveness for our own past choices. Write angry words on a piece of paper and then use a “forgiveness eraser,” to teach how Jesus erases our sins!

Suggested Prayer Approach using the ACTS prayer model:

Lord, I praise You ... that you are a merciful, grace filled, and forgiving God.

I confess that I ...

Thank You ... that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and in that act, we can find complete forgiveness.

I pray ... for those who don't understand Your willingness to bring healing and restoration. Help them, Lord, to find You.

Week 4 – The God who Defends the Vulnerable

Idea: God clearly calls His people to defend those who cannot defend themselves; this includes the unborn and families in fragile predicaments. Vulnerability includes emotional, relational, and economic fragility. The unborn are voiceless, while mothers in crisis often feel unseen and unsupported.

Psalms 82:3-4 – Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 31:8-9 – Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Isaiah 1:17 – Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, please the widow's cause.

Reflect: Where am I tempted to stay silent when God calls me to speak up? How can I support vulnerable families?

Kids Connection: Read the book Horton Hears a Who. Talk with your children about how a person's a person, no matter how small!

Suggested Prayer Approach using the ACTS prayer model:

Lord, I praise You ... that you are a compassionate and loving God.

I confess that I ...

Thank You ... for your Word that guides us in how to defend and care for the vulnerable.

I pray ... that You open my eyes to see those who are in need and that I will be faithful to follow your commands.