

Worth the Interruption


Training thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions...

**Impact
Report**



May 2018

Spencer Stewart, a high school teacher and long-time JFA volunteer, is passionate about the training opportunities that JFA provides to Christian communities like his school (Veritas Christian School in Lawrence, Kansas). In recent years, Spencer has invested personal time and effort in equipping his students for dialogue during class time. In March, after teaching students using JFA materials, he brought twenty students to our University of Kansas outreach event to watch JFA mentors in conversation and to give the students an opportunity to join in. In this Impact Report, Spencer and several of his students share about their experiences. (Student quotations have been edited for length.) We are always eager to come alongside teachers like Spencer who have a heart for discipleship, providing the tools and experiences they can use to help their students “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Prov. 31:8, NIV).

 - Steve Wagner, Executive Director

...one person at a time

I have attended about a dozen *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* seminars by Justice For All, often in order to bring new volunteers, as well as multiple outreaches on different college campuses. For two years now, it has been my privilege to teach JFA’s material to juniors and seniors in my Worldview and Apologetics classes over the course of the week leading up to a campus outreach. They have eagerly engaged with the training. I love that the Three Essential Skills (asking clarifying questions, listening to understand, and building common ground without compromise) prepare them to be better humans and better conversation partners on any topic.

All of my students know that they should be pro-life, but I love to see lightbulbs switch on as they learn more precisely why – and how to help others see it for themselves. At the outreach, we pair students with an apologist with Justice For All so they can listen in on and pray through the conversations taking place. Having received the training in class, they are able to track with the JFA apologist and better learn the nuances of these kinds of dialogues. Some of our students even jump in and engage in conversations of their own. All of the students have been enthusiastic about the experience. It opens their eyes to the diversity of thinking on campus, and they all benefit from JFA staff members modeling both kindness and conviction in the midst of a controversial issue. The juniors always want to do it again the following year. The hope is that the second time around will help them internalize the approach and increase their confidence to lead this kind of conversation.



Spencer Stewart talks with a University of Kansas (KU) student at a JFA outreach event in April 2015.

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It obviously interrupts the flow and takes a chunk of time away from our regular content, but I believe it is worth it, without a doubt. In terms of scope and severity, I consider abortion to be the greatest injustice on the planet, and God’s people are called to partner with Him in seeking justice, especially for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. With this issue, I believe partnering with Justice For All is the best way to do that, especially because they also work to connect with local pregnancy care centers students who are considering abortion or who need healing from one. We are wired to be heroes, and we can literally save lives at

these outreaches, and in our daily walk, once we have been prepared in this way. I pray that more and more churches and schools will open themselves up to be blessed by JFA and equipped for life on mission.

- Spencer Stewart, Veritas Christian School Teacher



Spencer (right) listens to a conversation at one of the first JFA outreach events in which he participated, at Wichita State University in January 2012.

[The JFA in-class preparation] taught me how to communicate an important point with someone in a non-threatening way, and it made me really think about my reasons for being pro-life.

- Marianna, Veritas Christian School Student

The JFA outreach was beneficial to me because I have never gotten the chance to talk to a stranger about my beliefs and ask about theirs. It was great to [hear] someone else's belief, and for them to hear mine. Using the finding common ground technique worked great because they felt differently about the message we were sending after we talked.

- Rondre, Veritas Christian School Student



Spencer (left) talks with a University of Kansas (KU) student at a JFA outreach event in April 2016. Students whom he brought to that outreach event listen in.

The JFA [in-class preparation] showed me how to better listen and not just attack a person based on their opinion. It helped my confidence when speaking to non-believers about scriptural things. The JFA outreach was super cool to be a part of because we were doing the work of God. Watching older, wiser people listen and have Godly conversations was helpful spiritually. The JFA outreach showed me just a glimpse of some of the opinions on campus, and the need for God.

- Quinton, Veritas Christian School Student

JFA impacted me by helping me understand the facts about abortion and how to talk to people in a relational way about this topic. It strengthened my reasoning for what I believe and opened my eyes to other people's views.

- Leandra, Veritas Christian School Student



Spencer (right) and his students listen as Rebecca Hotovy describes JFA's Art of Life Exhibit at the recent University of Kansas outreach event in March 2018.

The JFA training impacted me by making me feel more prepared to share about abortion with others and get into meaningful conversations. The techniques they taught us were very helpful and will be useful going into next year. The JFA outreach was different than what I thought it was going to be, but in a good way. The exhibit [was] very thought provoking and a good way to get people to ask questions.

- Emma, Veritas Christian School Student

The JFA [in-class preparation] made me think of most debates or disagreements in a different way. It gave me a different method to approach them. The JFA outreach was interesting because it showed the actual beliefs of real people, not just hypothetical responses and answers.

- Anonymous, Veritas Christian School Student

Download Free Training Materials from JFA:
www.jfaweb.org/explore-resources





Loving Every Human Being with JFA

Resource Bulletin – May 2018



PRAY FOR CONVERSATIONS

Pray for Recent/Upcoming Events (Partial List): Pray for wisdom for the team members who plan JFA’s outreach event schedule. Pray for the health of our trainers that they might keep active in the field. Pray for each person we train and each person with whom we converse at outreach, that God will kindle new affection in their hearts for women in distress and for the smallest humans on earth.

- April 16-17 (Fort Collins, CO): Kiosk Outreach Event – Colorado State University
- April 20 (Boulder, CO): Interactive Workshop – University of Colorado at Boulder
- April 21 (Englewood, CO): Interactive Seminar – All Souls Catholic Church
- April 23 (Lakewood, CO): Interactive Workshop – Colorado Christian University
- April 23-24 (Denver, CO): Kiosk Outreach Event – Metropolitan State University
- April 24 (Boulder, CO): Kiosk Outreach Event – University of Colorado Boulder
- April 27 (Wichita, KS): Classroom Presentations – Bishop Carroll Catholic High School
- May 19 (Tempe, AZ): Interactive Workshop – Tempe Public Library

See More Upcoming and Recent Events, including Photos: www.jfaweb.org/calendar

PREPARE FOR CONVERSATIONS

Featured Resource for Equipping Yourself: Last month, we encouraged you to read Part 1 of “A Living Room Conversation,” by JFA trainer Grace Fontenot. In this three-part story, Grace shares her conversation with “Heidi,” a young woman she met, not during an outreach event, but in an everyday-life setting. This month, we encourage you to read Part 2 of Grace’s story, in which Grace helps Heidi think through the biological evidence that the unborn is a living, human organism from the point of fertilization. As you read Part 2, you’ll learn several simple questions relating to biology that you can ask in your conversations about the unborn and abortion, and you’ll gain resources for further study.

Read Part 2 or Download a Printable Version: www.jfaweb.org/living-room-conversation
See More Dialogue Examples: www.jfaweb.org/dialogue-examples

START CONVERSATIONS

Featured Conversation Starter: Use the recent JFA blog post, “What’s Missing?” to start a conversation in a natural way this month. The post shows a JFA kiosk sign, presenting a quotation from an article by author and newspaper editor Verlyn Klinkenborg in a mysterious way that invites the viewer to think more deeply about unintended pregnancy and the unborn. You can use the post to ask a friend, family member, or co-worker, “What do you think is missing after an abortion?” and, “Is the unborn something very similar to you and me, or is the unborn something very different?”

Share the Post Via Twitter: www.twitter.com/7conversations
Share the Post Via the JFA Blog: www.jfaweb.org/start-the-conversation

What can I do to love every human involved in unwanted pregnancy?

About the *Loving Every Human Being with JFA* Resource Bulletin

Friends of JFA ask, “What can I do to love every human involved in unwanted pregnancy?” This resource bulletin offers some answers. Supporting JFA financially enables JFA’s trainers and volunteers to create conversations that kindle affection for unborn children and their parents, but beyond that, you can **PRAY** for conversations the JFA community is creating, **PREPARE** for conversations, and **START** conversations.

Pray for conversations. Prepare for conversations. Start conversations.