

Two Buckets

Training thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions...

**Impact
Report**



Sept. 2017

In this Impact Report, JFA dialogue artist and trainer Tammy Cook shares an approach to conversation that she's found to be very helpful for people who are pro-choice because they are reluctant to tell others what to do. Her "two buckets" concept helped Dixon think differently about abortion, even though seeing abortion as a harm had already been covered in the conversation once. That's one of the valuable lessons here: Many times, people need multiple passes at a concept from different angles in order to "see" the truth. In the conversation, you'll also see Tammy modeling other conversational approaches we teach in our seminar, including trotting out a toddler, asking questions with an open heart, and using visual aids (for more on each of these, see www.jfaweb.org/sept-2017).

 - Steve Wagner, Executive Director

...one person at a time.

The Lory Student Center Plaza was buzzing with students on a crisp morning in April. It was the first of three days in which Justice For All displayed the *Stop and Think* Exhibit at Colorado State University. Hundreds of students glanced up at the 12-foot display as they rushed to class. A student named "Dixon" stopped to ask a question.

Dixon: What is this all about?

Tammy: We are an organization named Justice For All. We were invited by the Students for Life club to discuss the topic of abortion with CSU students. We want to ask students what they think and then have a healthy and respectful dialogue. What do you think?

Dixon: I don't think I have a say. I don't think we can tell other people what to do.

Tammy: Thank you for sharing. May I ask you a few questions to better understand your view?

Dixon: Sure.

Tammy: It sounds like it's important to you to not tell others what they can or can't do. Do you mind sharing with me why that's important to you?

Dixon: Well, I don't like people telling me what to do, and I think most people feel that way.

Tammy: I agree with you – I think most people are sensitive to being told what they can or can't do.

Dixon: [nodding head] Right.

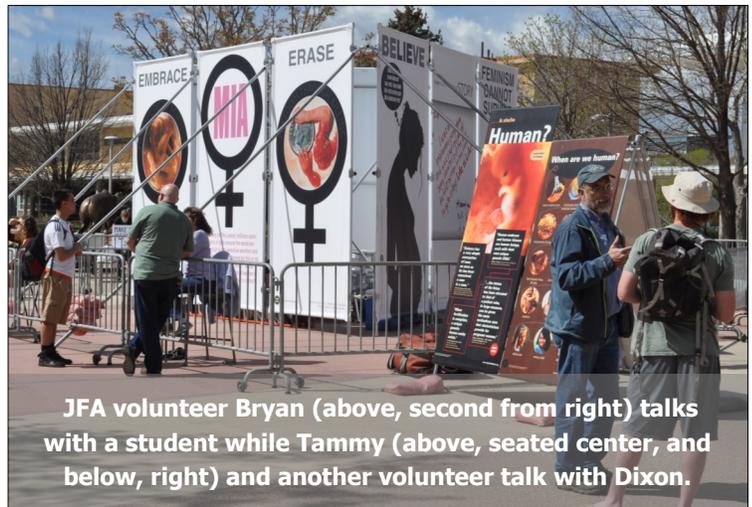
Tammy: Let me give you a scenario and ask what you think about it. Imagine that a woman has a two-year-old son, and she's having a really tough life. She can't afford to feed or take care of her son. This might seem like an odd question, but bear with me: "Should she be allowed to kill her two-year-old son, if that's what she wants to do?"

Dixon: No, absolutely not.

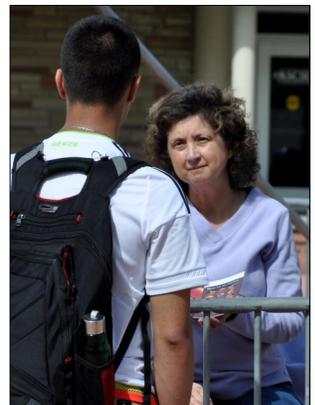
Tammy: I agree. Why can't she kill him?

Dixon: Because he's a child.

Tammy: Right. Would you agree that he's a human being like the mother?



JFA volunteer Bryan (above, second from right) talks with a student while Tammy (above, seated center, and below, right) and another volunteer talk with Dixon.



Dixon: Yes.

Tammy: So if the unborn child is a human being like the two-year-old, then wouldn't it be just as wrong to kill the unborn child through abortion as it would for the mother to kill her two-year-old?

Dixon: I've never thought about it that way. I guess that could change things. [He paused.] But I still don't think we can tell others what they can or can't do. Each person should have the freedom to make his own choices.

Tammy: I agree with you that freedom is important. Maybe it would help to break down our types of choices into two categories. Let's picture them in two separate buckets. Bucket number one contains choices that are our personal preferences. My "personal preference" bucket would contain two of my favorite foods, strawberries and broccoli. People can choose to eat or not eat strawberries or broccoli, but that choice does not harm other people. Bucket number two contains choices that cause serious harm like murder, stealing, and rape. Would you agree that people shouldn't have the choice to do any of those three things? *

Dixon: Yes.

Tammy: Why not?

Dixon: Because they're wrong.

Tammy: I agree. Each of these harms a human being, right?

Dixon: Yes.

Tammy: Do you see the difference? Someone who chooses to eat or not eat broccoli does not harm another person, but someone who chooses to rape *does* harm another person, right?

Dixon: Yes.

Tammy: And since abortion takes the life of a human being, would you agree that it belongs in the same bucket as rape and stealing?

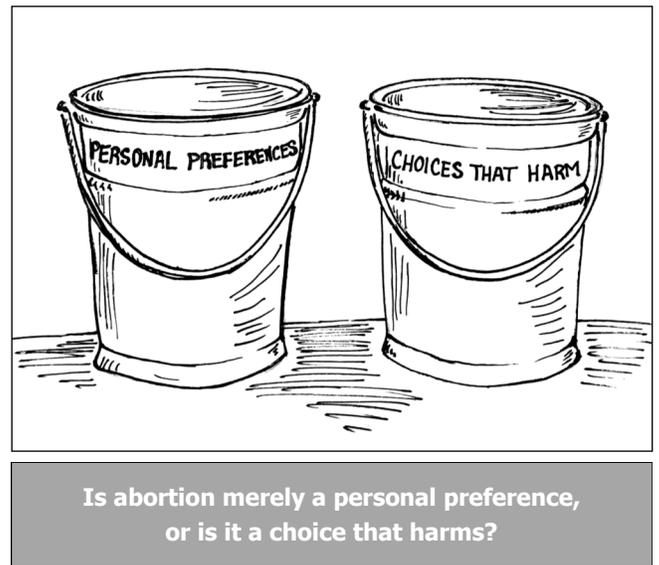
Dixon: Yes. Wow! This has been enlightening. You've given me a lot to think about. What if I hear of someone who is thinking about having an abortion? What should I do?

Tammy: Good question! Let me show you an app on my phone that you can download. [I showed him a video of an eight-week embryo using the "See Baby Pregnancy Guide" app for smartphones and tablets from the Endowment for Human Development (EHD). See www.ehd.org/apps to download the app for free.]

Dixon: Wow, that's cool.

Dixon had to get to class, but before he left, I was also able to show him how to use the JFA Exhibit Brochure (www.jfaweb.org/brochure) to help someone considering abortion. He thanked me for all of the new information and appeared to have a genuine change of heart about abortion.

- Tammy Cook, for the JFA Team



* I said this a bit differently on campus, and Dixon understood my meaning. I've slightly changed the wording in this dialogue to more clearly illustrate my meaning in print. Please take this portion of the dialogue to be capturing the gist of the conversation rather than the precise wording I used on campus.

Find the EHD App, the JFA Brochure, and Other Helpful Tools!

www.jfaweb.org/links





Making Abortion Unthinkable with JFA

September 2017



PRAY FOR CONVERSATIONS

Recent/Upcoming Events and New Student Guide: Please pray with us as we release our new guide for pro-life students: *Conversations Change Campuses* (www.jfaweb.org/students/ccs). Pray that it helps more student clubs create outreach events and conversations. Pray also that those clubs will invite us to partner with them. Pray for our upcoming events, that God will cause hearts and minds to change as a result of conversations created by our staff, volunteers, and audience members:

- IN – 9/4 – West Lafayette – Interactive Workshop – St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
- IN – 9/5,6 – West Lafayette – “Stop and Think” Exhibit Outreach Event – Purdue University
- KS – 9/24 – Lawrence – Interactive Seminar – St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center
- MN – 9/30 – Chanhassen – Interactive Workshop – St. Hubert Catholic Church
- MN – 10/1 – Minneapolis – Interactive Workshop – University of Minnesota
- MN – 10/2,3 – Minneapolis – Ten-Foot Kiosk Outreach Event – University of Minnesota
- TX – 10/14 – Austin – Interactive Seminar – For the City Center
- NM – TBD – Albuquerque – TBD
- OK – 11/13,14 – Norman – “Stop and Think” Exhibit Outreach Event – University of Oklahoma

See All Events and Register to Attend: www.jfaweb.org/calendar

PREPARE FOR CONVERSATIONS

Featured Resource for Equipping Yourself: In “Two Buckets,” Tammy Cook shares one concept that helps people who are reluctant to say abortion should not be legal because “I can’t tell others what to do.” Through the conversation, which Tammy shares in vivid detail, she also models a number of other important conversational tools. See the letter enclosed, or find it at the link below.

- Read Tammy’s Letter or Download a Printable Version: www.jfaweb.org/sept-2017
- See Another Approach to “I Can’t Tell Others What to Do!”: www.jfaweb.org/mindblown
- See More Dialogue Examples: www.jfaweb.org/dialogue-examples

START CONVERSATIONS

Featured Conversation Starter: Hiding in the corner of a JFA Free Speech Board at our Colorado State event in April was a tiny gem of a comment that’s also a great conversation starter you can share with pro-choice advocates and pro-life advocates alike. The comment helps people with different positions on abortion clarify where they really disagree, start with common ground, and give each other the benefit of the doubt. You can find the post titled “One Tiny Free Speech Board Comment” at the links below. Go check it out, and then share it on social media.

Share the Post: www.twitter.com/7conversations ; www.jfaweb.org/start-the-conversation

What can I do to make abortion unthinkable?

About the *Making Abortion Unthinkable with JFA* Resource Bulletin

For friends of JFA who ask, “What can I do to make abortion unthinkable?” this resource bulletin offers some answers. Beyond supporting JFA financially, which enables JFA’s trainers and volunteers to create conversations that make abortion unthinkable at JFA’s events, you can **PRAY** for the conversations the JFA community is creating (including your own), **PREPARE** for conversations, and **START** conversations.

Pray for conversations. Prepare for conversations. Start conversations.