

June 2014

The Irony of Falling

JUSTICE
FOR ALL

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Ask God to bless our founder, David Lee.
- Remember our new Executive Director, Steve Wagner.
- Pray for continued good health for Brit through the remainder of her pregnancy. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Nels Number Five in late August.
- Give thanks that new church and school partnerships with Justice For All are thriving.

At Arizona State University I started a conversation with a pro-choice girl who used a philosophical argument to justify abortion. I jumped all over her argument and made the perfect counter-argument by asking her several pointed questions, the last of which was, “Do you know how abortions take place?” Tears welled up in her eyes.

“I know exactly how an abortion takes place,” she said.

I realized too late that I had messed up big time. She had not been talking philosophy at all. She had been talking about her own experience. I tried to recover from the blunder as best I could.

“I’m sorry you went through that,” I said.

“Yeah, right...I’ve got to go to class.”

Ouch! It was obvious what she was really saying: “You don’t care about me or people in bad situations. You just care about having a good argument.” You know what? I can’t blame her for thinking that. I did not do much right in that conversation. As she walked away, I thought about how many things I had done wrong. It’s still painful to think about, but I

can’t imagine how painful it must have been for that girl.

Let’s take a look at what I did wrong. Maybe we can learn from it and not repeat history.

I should have begun the conversation by implementing the Three Essential Skills that we train others to use at Justice For All, which are: 1) listening to understand, 2) asking questions with an open heart, and 3) finding common ground whenever possible. Instead I employed a different tactic.

Tears welled up in her eyes.

“I know exactly how an abortion takes place,” she said.

I realized too late that I had messed up big time.

I did not take the time to listen for understanding—understanding of what she was really talking about. Instead of asking questions with an open heart to help me better understand what she really meant and who she really was, I asked the wrong questions at the wrong time in an effort to refute her. And finally, I did not find much common ground. Not practicing the Three Essential Skills

JUSTICE FOR ALL

Phone: 404-379-4333

Fax: 316-683-4621

E-mail: Jacob.Nels@JFAweb.org

National Office:

Justice For All
113 N. Martinson
Wichita, KS 67203

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.JFAWEB.ORG

left me operating on assumptions—never a good thing—and what I tragically assumed was that this girl had been talking about abortion simply from a philosophical perspective.

Pray with me for this young women that she will come to know the love of God. Pray that God will call her to himself.

The one thing I did do right was dust myself off and climb back in the saddle, determined not to repeat those mistakes. Ten minutes after she left I started another conversation that went really well. It is important not to let fear stop us. We must accept that we are going to mess up sometimes, but we can admit when we are wrong and keep trying to be faithful defenders of the unborn and witnesses for the truth.

-Jacob Nels

To the right I am crashing and falling as I talk to the young woman from the story. Take a close look at my polo shirt. How ironic!

Below, back on the horse, I am doing a much better job of practicing the Three Essential Skills.

