

ONLY ONE OBJECTIVE: GETTING YOU TO CAMPUS

I have only one primary objective for the next two weeks: getting **you** to campus this March. I cannot convince you that talking about abortion is easy. Talking to people about abortion is scary. Period. My aim is to convince you to come to campus because I think it's what Jesus would do. We will teach you what to do and how to do it during one of our interactive seminars prior to going to campus. You can come just to observe and pray for the team, or come to minister to the students through conversation. We can't take the fear away; that is God's job, but we can equip you to do the hard work.



Although we work hard to prepare volunteers beforehand, we encourage those volunteers who come to campus for the Justice For All Exhibit outreach to listen to several mentor-led conversations with university students before attempting to dialogue with students on their own. I published the story below in 2010, but I am sharing it again here to give you an idea of how we continue to train volunteers beyond the seminar, right on the mission field and to give you a sense of how I and the JFA team will train you.

I was standing with "Sarah," one of our trained volunteers, near the place where the Justice For All Exhibit was set up at Kennesaw State University. I said to her, "There's a guy over there. Let's try to engage him."

(In the picture above, I'm in the sunglasses, Sarah is to my left in black, and Steve is in the red cap.)

"Have you ever seen pictures like these before?" I asked "Steve."

"I think so, but I can't remember where," he said.

"Do you think this organization should have the right to be here displaying these pictures?"

"Yeah, I guess you have the right to be here. It's free speech, but I don't agree with you."

"I really appreciate that you agree with our right to free speech, even though you don't agree with us on the subject. Do you think abortion should be legal through all nine months?"

"Well, it's not, is it?"

"Unfortunately, it is."

"Wow. I don't agree with that."

"Well, we can agree on some things! We both agree that late-term abortions are wrong, and we agree on free speech. That's two for two! Can I ask you at what point in the pregnancy you think it's wrong to kill the child?"

"Well, it's not a child. It's a fetus."

At this point I could see Sarah, our trained volunteer, beginning to connect the dots. In less than two minutes we had brought the conversation around to the one question that mattered: What is the unborn?

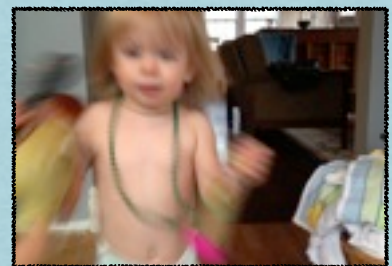
I then engaged this young man in a discussion of why the unborn should be considered fully human. It was a textbook example of using the SLED Test in conversation. The SLED Test is a tool created by Stephen Schwarz which addresses four major arguments for why the unborn are not fully human.



Helen is warmer than sunshine, and her smile lights up our days. Talitha is growing too fast, but we delight in her peaceful demeanor.



Israel is a wonderful mini-Momma, as always. Her vivid imagination and flare for the theatrical keeps us laughing.



This is **not** poor photo quality! We just cannot get Zarah Grace to stand still long enough to get a decent picture!

SLED stands for **S**ize, **L**evel of **D**evelopment, **E**nvironment, and **D**egree of **D**ependency. During my conversation with Steve, we hit all the points of SLED in order...several times! Our discussion was very similar to the model dialogue found in JFA's seminar materials. Here's how it went:

Jacob: Why do you think the unborn is not a person?

Steve: It's small; it doesn't look like a person. [Size]

Jacob: I agree that the unborn is smaller than you and I are, but how is size relevant to value? Would we say that a toddler is less of a person than an adult just because he is smaller?

Steve: I guess it's not size exactly. The unborn can't feel pain or think. [Level of Development]

Jacob: You're right that the unborn can't feel pain early in its development. And it's not thinking the same way that you and I are, but how does our level of development determine our value? Aren't there many humans outside the womb who can't feel pain or who have poorer thinking skills than others? If those things give us value, don't those of us with better thinking skills have more value?

Steve: Interesting point. Still, it's in the womb. It's not even in the world yet. [Environment]

Jacob: You're right that it's in a different location than we are, but should environment or location matter when we're talking about human value? If changing location doesn't change the value of human beings outside the womb, then how does it change the value of those inside the womb?

Steve: Well, I don't mean location exactly. It's just that the unborn can't live without the mother. [Degree of Dependency]

Jacob: That's true, but how does our degree of dependency determine our value? Isn't it the case that newborns and toddlers can't live without someone else either? I agree that the unborn is

more dependent, and I think I'd even agree that it's dependent only on the mother.

Steve: So it can't be a person. It's not independent.

Jacob: Let me ask you this. If a one-year-old falls into a pool and you're the only one nearby to save him, would you?

Steve: Sure.

From here, Steve would start down the list of SLED objections all over again. I was glad for Sarah to get lots of exposure to the SLED Test. About an hour later, Sarah and I were still talking to Steve. While staring at a picture of an aborted child, Steve finally said, *"I guess I never saw the unborn as a person before. Maybe I should."*

Just then, Steve's friend "Bob" walked up, and Steve started asking Bob what he thought about the exhibit and abortion. His friend answered with a shrug, "I don't know. It's legal."

Before I could engage Bob in conversation, Steve jumped in and said, "Yeah, but come on, man. You know not all laws are good."

Before I understood what was happening, Steve and Bob were engaged in a dialogue about abortion with Steve defending the pro-life position! I continued to converse with Steve and Bob for another hour while Sarah listened intently. I don't want to make it seem like Steve became a fully-onboard, pro-life advocate at that time, but he definitely walked away with a pebble in his shoe and major questions in his mind.

Sarah went on to engage students in her own conversations, and at the end of the day she reported back to me that she had several productive conversations. It was a great day of learning for all of us. Like Sarah, you, too, can learn to talk about abortion. Join us for a seminar on March 9 or 10, and join us for a few hours during campus outreach March 11-13.

PRAISE:

The reservations for bringing JFA to GA Tech are officially finalized and the GT Students For Life club worked hard to accomplish this crucial task!

PRAYER:

1. Pray for the Lord to prepare the hearts of the students on campus.

2. Pray for the students and adults we will train to be ambassadors for Christ.

Come to campus!

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Thank you so much for your support! I just got back from Arizona State University, and I look forward to sharing my experiences with you in a future letter. I am really excited about bringing the JFA training program to Georgia! Here's the schedule so you can mark your calendar:

Saturday, March 9: training @ Grace Community Church
9 am - 2:30 pm

Sunday, March 10: training @ First Baptist Church of Woodstock
1 pm - 5 pm

Monday - Wednesday, March 11-13:
Mission Trip to GA Tech campus
8 am - 4 pm (drop-in any time)

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"Knowledge without grace produces victories with no converts."

- Phillip Joseph