

Developing Heroes Instead of Spectators

By Jonathan Wagner

Most people who have interacted closely with the Justice For All training program are aware that our seminars equip pro-lifers to listen to, challenge, and comfort many who are *pro-choice*. **Many people aren't aware that we also equip pro-lifers for an equally significant opportunity: motivating *pro-life* students toward serious and wise action on behalf of the unborn.**

During campus outreaches, many well-meaning pro-life students approach us with smiles, hugs, and congratulations. We love this and are encouraged, but then we also work to empower them to be a hero in their own spheres of influence. I often tell them, **"I don't know your friends, professors, and classmates, but you can reach those right around you with the truth."**

At our *Abortion: From Debate To Dialogue* seminar, many attendees ask, "What do I say to someone who is already pro-life?" I remind them that our goal is not to jump up and down with excitement for their views and send them on their way unprepared to impact their community. We don't want them to merely have the comfort of knowing there are some like-minded people on their "pro-choice campus." But what *can* we do?

Until recently I told folks to "challenge your friends," "study pro-life materials," and to "get your community involved." I felt like I was grasping at straws and merely adding more information to the stack we had already given them. The advice was vague and incomplete and thus failed to be what a courageous person could implement immediately.

I buckled down and came up with six things that every pro-lifer needs for their views to go **from private opinion to high priority**. Do your friends have these? **On the reverse side is my guide to empowering any pro-life person you meet.**

Many people who oppose abortion (like the woman and men below) have real pro-life convictions, but they often lack cutting-edge resources, direction, and motivation. This letter equips you to reach people like them.



1—An authentic pro-life view: An honest grasp of sound pro-life reasoning and an ability to communicate it. A conviction that abortion is not just a problem but a tragedy and not an unfortunate thing to remember but a horrific system and epidemic to work against.

2—A loving demeanor: A desire to ask great questions, to listen well, and to challenge folks and share reasoning once you've earned the right to be heard. A caring attitude, gracious spirit, and a willingness to build genuine common ground.

3—Resources to study and use (SEE THE LIST BELOW): A handheld Justice For All brochure. The Abort73.com website that helps communicate the truth of abortion. Videos and books from JFAweb.org and STR.org.

4—Motivation to help stop the injustice: An urgency to save babies, comfort hurting mothers and fathers who think they need abortion, and the desire to communicate a message of hope to those who have paid for an abortion or had one themselves.

5—An immediate action step: Share a brochure, book, video or website to start a genuine conversation about abortion. Join a local group of committed pro-lifers so you can work together. I challenge people to respectfully approach their church leaders and friends about taking abortion more seriously as a community.

6—Encouragement and accountability: Everyone needs encouragement as they look to make an impact in such a tough arena. I give out my contact information and let people know they are free to contact me with questions and concerns. Letting them know that they are not alone is so helpful.

Don't leave potential heroes out in the cold. Find the people in your spheres of influence who need resources, direction, and motivation and lend them help and accountability. They may make an immediate impact!



Resources You Can Use Now

- www.jfaweb.org/PD (Prenatal development videos to share with friends online or in person)
- www.abort73.com/videos/this_is_abortion (Due to the horror of abortion, this video of the results of abortion is very tough to look at, but it's essential. Graciously help your friends experience the truth and be motivated by it.)
- www.commongroundbook.com (The website gives access to *Common Ground Without Compromise* for free. This book equips you to have effective conversations about abortion.)
- www.jfaweb.org/exhibit.html (The Justice For All brochure has been used by thousands to challenge their friends and neighbors about abortion in a gracious, yet challenging way).

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It will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves.