



# Becoming Effective in Everyday Life

*A simple question develops into a detailed plan of action.*

Several weeks ago I received an email that got me thinking.

"I started thinking about ways that I could personally impact my new friends and others at school. Do you have any ways that I could gradually bring up the subject of abortion without it being too random, awkward, or forward? When y'all talk to people, they are people that are looking at the (JFA) display, so it is really easy to start talking to them about abortion that way. But how am I supposed to bring up abortion to those who I know at school? I know this may be a tough question, but if you have an opinion or thoughts about it, I would like to hear it." - JFA volunteer

Below is my answer. I trust that it will get you thinking.

- **"You are correct that it is easier when you have some "reason" to talk** about the issue. Justice For All exhibit outreaches or a survey event will not just give you immediate opportunities but they will spark future opportunities (in everyday life) as well. Elections, a murder trial involving a pregnant woman, the Body Worlds Exhibit, and TV shows with storylines containing pregnancy or abortion are all great ways to approach the topic of abortion without coming from left field. **You need to be very aware of any way to bring truth to our lost culture...in a genuine way!**

- **Conversations naturally flow from genuine relationships.** In general you need to be getting to know people but you already know this. I know from watching you that you genuinely care about people. The key is that as you are finding out about others, sharing about yourself, and in general being outgoing, your faith and values should naturally come to the surface and your desire to understand other people's faith and values should surface as well. It is very important to let the conversation follow the relationship instead of getting to know them simply to tell them information or "challenge them" (this is different than an outreach event where it is normal to be mainly focusing on the issues at hand). In everyday life it will be easy for people to sense if you are being fake. **Challenge yourself to consistently be talkative and relational...not just every so often to "make an impact".**

- **Knowledge will make you more prepared, more aware, and more bold.** If you grow in your knowledge about the subject of abortion, arguments on both sides, and the tactics to explain those views you will have many more opportunities to reach others. You will be more prepared when conversation opportunities arise and furthermore you'll be able to sense when a question or two could open up a conversation. Due to the confidence you'll have from your increase in knowledge, you will be much more likely to be aware of these opportunities and consequently it will be more natural for you will take them. Lastly, when you do →



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

... notice the opportunities and are prepared to act you will be more bold and calm during those opportunities. **I'd challenge you and your friends to pitch in for several key pro-life resources (I could recommend some) and then study them diligently.**

- **Pray for every opportunity... before and after.** We have to be asking God for opportunities and trusting that He will set up the opportunities He wants us to have. Our job is to stay ready. **Even during the conversations make sure to stay prayerful.**

- **Choose to make the most of every opportunity.** No situation will be perfect so you should set goals to seek out opportunities and to do your best in every situation. Don't have an expectation that the conversation has to go a certain way or that you have to make a certain amount of progress. Choose to be purposeful in reaching out to people. **If the topic of abortion comes up then choose to listen well and to share truth with grace.**



- **Focus on the God's overall truth and commands.** Having meaningful conversations about abortion is just part of your calling in life. It fits into your overall purpose of loving God with everything you have and are and loving your neighbor as yourself. If you are focused on your overall purpose instead of being distracted by worldly pleasures (1 Peter 1: 13-19, 1 Peter 2:11-12) then you will have so many opportunities. Remember to be versatile. **You need to be ready to discuss abortion but abortion is not the only issue** and it's not even the central issue (it is a symptom of a larger sin problem so do keep that in perspective).


- **Be consistent and set goals for progress.** You must be purposeful and disciplined in order to make a consistent impact. I challenge you to first try and have one conversation per week and when you are able to handle that try for two a week and so on. You need to be determined to find opportunities to interact. As you have conversations and notice skills or attitudes that need work make sure to commit that to prayer and practice. **Making an impact doesn't happen by accident."**

### **Praises and Prayer requests for September 2009:**

- Next week our team heads to Lawrence, KS for our K.U. training and outreach. We will train at Benedictine College and we will train in the community as well.
- On September 9th we have a great opportunity to give a presentation in Stillwater, OK at one of the local college ministries. Please pray for hearts that are open to ministry.
- During my trip to Georgia last week I was able to make many good connections and I was referred to several folks that I need to follow up with. Please pray that they are responsive.
- Pray for TRAVEL SAFETY for our whole team. Pray also for our OPPORTUNITIES to change hearts , for GOOD WEATHER (gives us more conversations), and for SAVED LIVES.

**Your support helps me train students so that they can reach out with the JFA program and to others in everyday life.**

Defending Human Value together,

  
Jonathan Wagner