



A Voice for the Voiceless



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www.jfaweb.org/Impact/Rachelle

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Dear Friends,

Roe v. Wade has been the law of the land for 40 years. Thousands of times each day, the voice of a baby is forever silenced. In each case, two parents and other family members are changed forever. Sadly, a total of over one million children will lose their precious lives this year.

In the wake of this atrocity, there is hope. In our quest to make abortion unthinkable, we have witnessed average citizens doing extraordinary things. They rely on the voice of the Holy Spirit who moves them to speak boldly and lovingly for the voiceless. Rachelle Weekes (pictured right in white shirt) is one of them.



Our team met Rachelle at our Yale University events in April last year. I observed Rachelle each day on the Yale campus as she sought out conversation after conversation with students. It didn't take long for our team to recognize that this was a very special young lady. She had a passion for sharing the Gospel, but she was equally passionate about sharing the injustice of abortion with every person she met.

This is Rachelle's story in her own words (excerpts). I believe that after you read her story, you too will be inspired to become a voice for the voiceless in your church or circle of influence.

The abortion issue weighs heavy on my heart due to the 54% abortion rate here in Brooklyn, New York. Recently, our church started standing outside of abortion clinics and having discussions with people.

I've had the joy of seriously discussing the gospel with many young ladies here in some of the toughest areas in Brooklyn. However, delving into the abortion issue added a whole new dimension to the discussion and I kept hitting a brick wall. I would mention abortion briefly while going through the gospel, but I never pushed the issue.

Most young ladies have become desensitized to abortion. Without a doubt, only God can open a person's eyes and convict a heart, but in the course of conversations, I realized I was creating hurdles because of my own ignorance or insensitivity. My desire was to see hearts and minds changed, yet I didn't have the tools.



Enter: The Justice For All Training

Question: Have you ever tried to take a screw out of the wall without a screwdriver or knife? Not a pleasant experience. Well, attending the JFA training was like being handed a powerful drill after bloodying your fingers trying to get a screw out of the wall.

Simple, yet important principles and skills were taught during the "seat work" time. We learned to ask "What" and "Why" questions. We learned to truly listen to the person in front of us to find common ground, move forward and direct

the conversation toward the humanity of the unborn child. On my first day of the “feet work” at Yale, I didn’t have one conversation! I watched, asked many questions, and listened to Antionette, David, Tammy and Steve ... incredible teachers and mentors!

The second day, I began to practice what I had been taught, and by the third day the conversations began to flow. People were not offended but rather thankful for the discussion! One lady, gladly explained why she voted “Yes” to the question, “Should Abortion Remain Legal?” Although she was a happy mother of two, she believed every woman should have the right to choose when she wants to start a family, and she would rather there be too many abortions in the world than too few. What a sad answer. But as a result of the [JFA] training our conversation continued on. She ended up having to work really hard to justify her answers. The more she talked, she seemed to realize she couldn’t coherently defend her position although she wouldn’t admit it. To my shock, she left thanking me and stating what a great discussion it was.



We were able to bring our training back to 20 to 30 people in our church. What a difference it has made! We are better equipped to speak with the people we encounter every Saturday in front of a large abortion clinic in a high traffic, tough neighborhood. Each person on our team is better equipped to speak with family members, co-workers, neighbors and friends about this controversial issue.

In another encounter with two college students here in the city, I was told, “Of course abortion should remain legal! It’s a woman’s right.” After about 10 minutes of discussion and walking them through the JFA brochure, these girls quite sincerely said, “Wow, thanks. I can’t believe you changed our minds in like five minutes!” That was God’s mercy.

I had the privilege of attending JFA training in Kansas that equipped me in an even greater way to help train our team. After a few days of JFA Mentor / Speaker training, two JFA seminars, and a JFA Campus Outreach at KU, I was truly encouraged and reinvigorated! As a result, I was able to share with my dad (Pastor of our church) what I learned. Every Wednesday night after a time of prayer at our church, he goes through different sections of the JFA training with our team to better prepare us for Saturdays.

During our time being present in front of abortion clinics, our team members have encountered irate members of the community, but have been able to create dialogue as a result of the JFA training. Many times they see that person change her mind. We have seen mothers change their minds on their way to the abortion clinic, not once or twice, but time after time. We have seen fathers, grandmothers and friends as well, be impacted by the graphic images, but, more importantly, by someone who was able to speak with them about those images in a coherent manner and appeal to them about the humanity of the unborn.

Thanks to JFA’s excellent staff and teaching, this issue can be discussed intelligently with God’s wisdom, grace and humility.

Thank you for partnering with Justice For All. It is your faithful giving and willingness to live sacrificially that makes it possible for JFA to impact lives like Rachele’s. May God richly bless you.

In Christ,

