



Our son Brandon, who is now an adult, has always been fascinated by the concept of time travel. So, over the years our family has seen several movies and TV shows based on that premise. They were pure science fiction, of course, but still fun to watch.

So please indulge me and imagine that I've traveled back in time for a moment to a time when my children were young. And just to be clear, this story is purely fictional. It never happened.

Imagine with me that I'm standing at the kitchen sink washing dishes and my seven-year-old son comes up behind me and says, "Mommy, can I kill this?" I'm unable to turn around to see what he's referring to, so what do you think the first words out of my mouth are going to be? That's right. "What is it?"

If he has a cockroach in a jar, I would probably let out a scream and emphatically say, "Yes!! Go get your daddy and let him teach you what to do." If he has the neighborhood kitty, I would ask his daddy to come to the kitchen right away, and we would sit down with our son to have a serious talk about why we can't kill pets. Now if he has his 5-year-old brother in a headlock ... well, let's just say we would need some family counseling, to say the least.



*We must establish what something is before we can determine if we can kill it, right?*

Okay, I have now time-traveled back to present day. This part is *not* fictional. It really happened, just a few months ago, in fact.

I'm on the University of Oklahoma (OU) campus talking with an OU student, Sylvia. She has identified herself as pro-choice. She says she wouldn't have an abortion but she thinks other women should have the right to choose. I tell her the fictional story that I just told you about washing dishes. I ask what she thinks my response would be to my son if he were to ask, "Mommy, can I kill this?" She responds:

**Sylvia:** [pauses] You would say, "What is it?"

**Tammy:** Right. We have to determine what something is before we can determine if we can kill it. When do you think we become biological human beings?

**Sylvia:** Birth.

*[The JFA Exhibit Brochure is comprised of 12 panels. I point to Panel 2 of our brochure that depicts 15 stages of human life, before and after birth, and ask her this question.]*

**Tammy:** Do you think the toddler is a whole human organism?

**Sylvia:** Yes.

**Tammy:** If the toddler is a whole human organism *now*, and all that was added from fertilization until the toddler stage was nutrition and a proper environment ... Wouldn't that mean that the unborn *at fertilization* would have to have been a whole human organism as well?

**Sylvia:** [Takes a long pause to think about it.] Yes, I guess you're right.

**Tammy:** Okay! Now that we agree about that, let's set aside abortion in the cases of rape and health of the mother for a moment, as important as they are, and focus on the reasons for a majority of abortions.\*

I showed her the Justice Quiz on Panel 12 of the JFA Brochure and asked her if a woman should be allowed to have an abortion for any of those reasons. Here's what Panel 12 asks the viewer:

### **Justice Quiz**

*Should a baby die for us to:*

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ◆ Save money?                     | ◆ Save a relationship?                            |
| ◆ Preserve career/life plans?     | ◆ Avoid a relationship with the baby's relatives? |
| ◆ Avoid embarrassment?            | ◆ Avoid the pain of adoption?                     |
| ◆ Eliminate undesirable genes?    | ◆ Select the gender of the child?                 |
| ◆ Escape parental responsibility? | ◆ Limit family size?                              |
| ◆ Advance medical research?       | ◆ Earn Income?                                    |

Sylvia thought about it and then said no. I "Trotted out a Toddler" to make sure we were on the same page. (You can learn the skill of "Trotting out a Toddler" by attending a JFA seminar.) She said:

**Sylvia:** A woman can't kill a toddler for any of the reasons in the Justice Quiz.

**Tammy:** Do you still believe that a woman should be allowed to choose abortion for any reason?

**Sylvia:** (Pause) No... because now I realize that the unborn is a human being like the toddler.

**Tammy:** Should women be allowed to choose abortion, even if they're in a tough situation?

**Sylvia:** No.

**Tammy:** Does that mean you now believe that abortion is wrong, no matter what the reason?

**Sylvia:** Yes.

We smiled at each other realizing how much her view had changed in just 20 minutes. Sylvia and I chatted for a few more minutes and I learned she is studying Social Work. She said that during our conversation she realized that she should value and care for *unborn* babies just as much as she values and cares for *born* babies. She hopes to reflect on how to use her degree to not only help born children in unfortunate circumstances, but also help unborn children whose parents are in unfortunate circumstances, as well. At the end of our conversation, she said:

**Sylvia:** This has been an eye-opening conversation and I greatly appreciate you helping me think through this issue. Thank you!

Did you notice that instead of telling Sylvia that her view about abortion was wrong that I, instead, helped her to discover the truth for herself through using questions and visual aids? I hope *you* can attend a JFA seminar soon to learn to help other people like Sylvia to discover the truth about abortion.

Thank you for your ongoing support which allows us to train thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one person at a time.

In Christ,



+JMJ

\* Source: "Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives" [[www.guttmacher.org/pubs/psrh/full/3711005.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/psrh/full/3711005.pdf)]