



JUSTICE FOR ALL

Training Thousands to Win Millions, One at a Time.

November 14, 2011

Before coming to the JFA [training] in Denton, Texas, I knew that abortion was wrong. I believed life begins at conception and that ending that life is immoral. But I didn't know how to have a conversation about it. I was excited to learn but nervous at the same time. I knew that the training included discussing with students at the University of North Texas (UNT) and that intimidated me.

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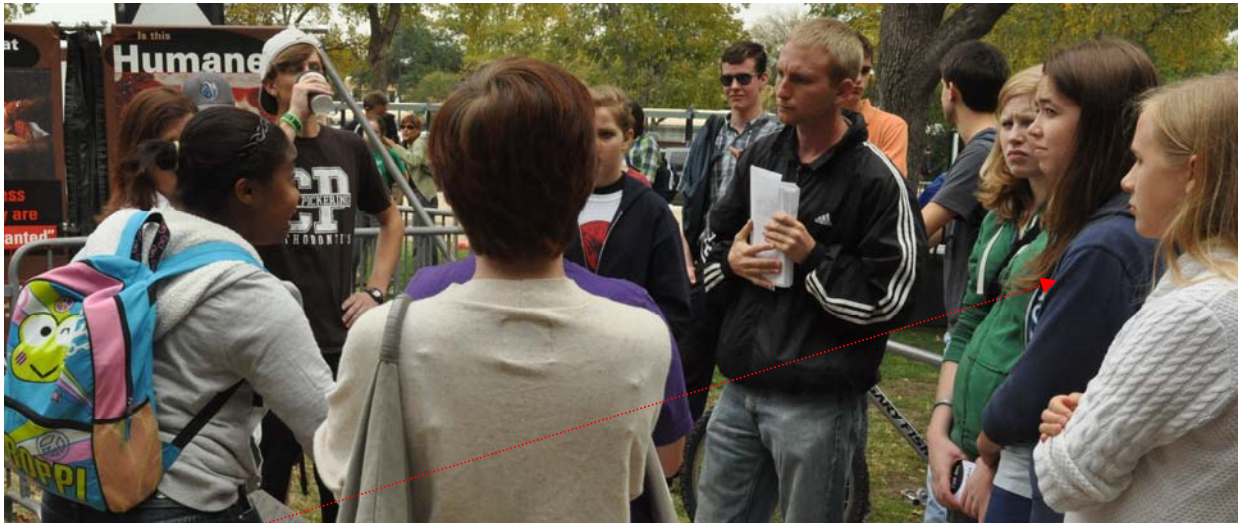
Kelsey practices dialogue skills during JFA seminar.

The seminar on the first day was wonderful. JFA's dialogue tools are invaluable. I really benefited by the emphasis on listening to the person to whom you are talking. I often want to jump right into a debate with someone if I feel passionate about a subject. But applying the dialogue tools of simply listening, asking questions and building common ground is, as I learned, a much more effective way to discuss an issue with someone, especially if they disagree with me. The only change I would suggest is that the seminar be possibly over the course of two days instead of one, so there is more time to process all the information. Otherwise, I loved it!

Still, I was very nervous on the drive over to the university. I wasn't sure I could remember all of the things that were taught during the seminar. Once I saw the exhibit set up and people milling about and talking, I got very excited. I couldn't wait to begin to apply the things I had learned. The next two days were full of countless challenges and even more blessings. Matthew 10:39 really came to life in a way it never has before. *"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it."*

Spending two days talking about abortion with people who disagree with me isn't exactly my activity of choice but it yielded more blessings than I ever counted on! By respectfully and kindly asking others what they believed, I knew that I was growing to love them in a Christ-like way and beginning to see others as Jesus does. By challenging others on their beliefs and convictions about abortion, I knew that I was making an impact for the kingdom of God.

The testimonies in the evenings with the others involved in the JFA outreach was my favorite part. I loved hearing stories of conversations that others had and comparing notes with them. It was also a great time to get clarification on questions that people might have raised that day and to learn how to do an even better job next time.



Kelsey listens to mentor Jon Wagner dialogue with students during home school outreach at UNT.

My most noteworthy conversation was the last one of the outreach. I, along with another girl in our group, was able to share the gospel with three students who were not Christians. We began talking about abortion, but that gradually led to a discussion on morals, then Christianity, and eventually Jesus. By using the tools we learned during the seminar, we were able to listen to their opinions, build common ground with them, and pose questions to challenge their beliefs. We were able to share the entire gospel with them! The result was that we parted as friends, even though we almost completely disagreed. I was so blessed by the conversation and I am keeping those three students in my prayers.

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I don't think that words can completely describe the impact that the JFA outreach had on me. I feel like I received so much more than I gave! My experience was absolutely one of the best of my life. Everyone on the staff was wonderful, and so encouraging! There is no doubt that I will be coming back for another outreach! Thank you so much to everyone who made it possible. Keep up the good work! You are impacting the world for Christ!

Sincerely,

Kinsey Smith
Oklahoma High School Home School Senior