



Loving Every Human Being with JFA

Resource Bulletin – August 2019



PRAY FOR CONVERSATIONS

Pray for Each Person We Encounter During Outreach Events: Pray especially for our outreach events and related training events coming up in September at Benedictine College, where many students oppose abortion. This is the first time we've done a major outreach event at a private religious college. We'll be training students to join us at the University of Kansas to create dialogue that changes minds, and we'll also be challenging students to consider pro-life work as a vocation.

Summer JFA Events: Seminar in PA (6/25), Workshop in KS (6/25), Outreach at Wichita State (6/26), Seminar for Seminarians in KS (7/12-13), Seminar in KS (7/23), Outreach at Wichita State (7/24), MI Presentations (Multiple Dates), OH Seminars (8/9-10)
Upcoming Outreach Events: Trinity Univ. (TX), Benedictine College (KS), KU (KS), Univ. of Houston (TX), UTSA (TX), Pittsburg State (KS), OU (OK), George Mason (VA)

See Recent and Upcoming Events: www.jfaweb.org/calendar

PREPARE FOR CONVERSATIONS

Featured Resource for Equipping Yourself: In his newsletter for September ("The Power of Common Ground"), Jeremy Gorr shares a great model of using common ground in a real conversation (enclosed, or read it at www.jfaweb.org/aug-2019). You can use his letter to equip yourself with questions that will help you find common ground with others regarding abortion. He also discusses an approach to finding genuine common ground that avoids compromising one's beliefs. In a footnote, Jeremy mentions JFA Director Steve Wagner's book, *Common Ground Without Compromise*, which you can get for free at www.commongroundbook.com. That book features 25 questions you can use to begin a conversation with agreement instead of hostility.

Read "The Power of Common Ground": www.jfaweb.org/aug-2019

Get Steve Wagner's Book for Free: www.commongroundbook.com

START CONVERSATIONS

Featured Conversation Starter: This month, we invite you to start a conversation with common ground by sharing the recent JFA Blog post, "Is Every Child a Work of Art?" The post refers to an Abort73.com shirt design. We think the optimism the shirt communicates about already-born human beings can help us find common ground with friends and neighbors to get a conversation about abortion started on the right foot. We don't know for sure, but we think many people would respond, "Yes, I agree that every child is a work of art." If human beings *we can see* are works of art, then, even if they are poor, disabled, or have some other characteristic people generally think of in a negative light, what should that teach us about human beings that may be *too small to see*? And if the unborn are also works of art, how should we treat them?

Share the JFA Blog Post: www.jfaweb.org/start-the-conversation

Explore All Conversation Starters (Twitter): www.twitter.com/7conversations

What can I do to love every human involved in unwanted pregnancy?

About the *Loving Every Human Being with JFA* Resource Bulletin

Friends of JFA ask, "What can I do to love every human involved in unwanted pregnancy?" This resource bulletin offers some answers. Supporting JFA financially enables JFA's trainers and volunteers to create conversations that kindle affection for unborn children and their parents, but beyond that, you can **PRAY** for conversations the JFA community is creating, **PREPARE** for conversations, and **START** conversations.

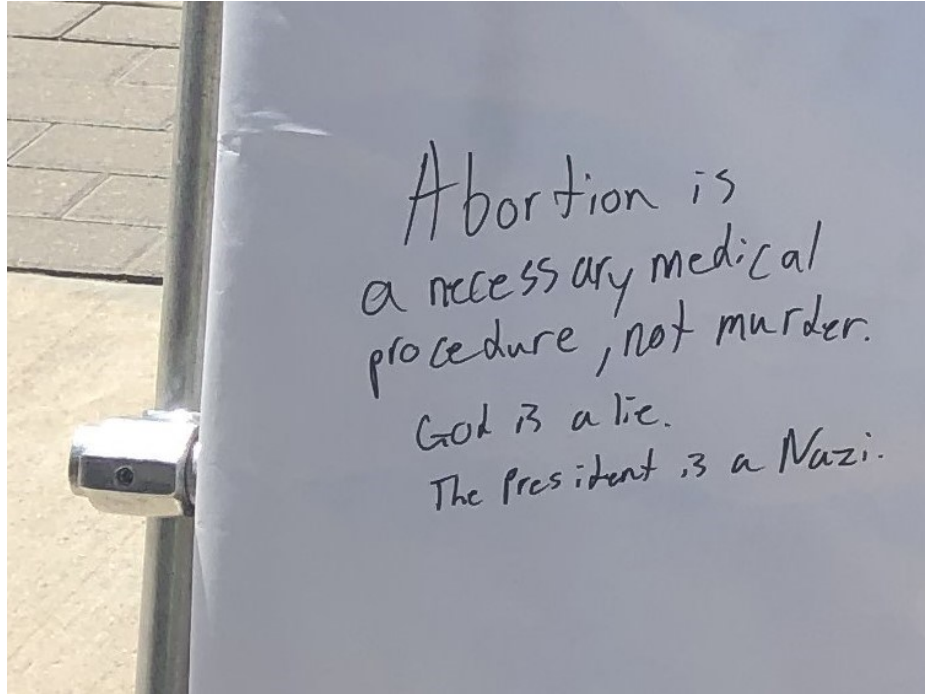
Pray for conversations. Prepare for conversations. Start conversations.



The Power of Common Ground

One of the most important things we teach people is to find common ground when possible—and it *is* almost always possible! A great example of the power of finding common ground was a conversation I had with Taylor at the University of North Texas.

Taylor was writing on our free speech board (shown in picture). From what he wrote, it may be hard to imagine that I would have had much common ground with him. It seemed like we had totally different worldviews.



Taylor wrote this on our free speech board just before our conversation.

It turned out, however, that finding common ground with him was easy! Our conversation started like this:

Jeremy: Do you think there should be any restrictions on abortion at all?

Taylor: I don't think it should be used as a form of birth control, but that's about it.

Jeremy: I don't think that abortion should be used as a form of birth control either. I agree with you about that! Why do you think abortion should be available for other reasons?

Taylor: If the child is not going to have the quality of life he or she should, it should be up to the parent to figure out what's best for the child.

Jeremy: I agree that it's tragic when children don't have a high quality of life. I also agree that parents generally should have freedom regarding how to raise their children.

Notice how I first found something I could agree with after each statement he made. But also notice that I did not agree with everything he said. Even though I agreed with many of his sentiments, I made sure never to agree with him that abortion should be allowed in the circumstances he raised.

We call this finding “common ground without compromise.” We can find much to agree with and never compromise our position to do so. Finding common ground early in the conversation really opened the door to a thoughtful conversation with Taylor. If I had not shown him that we had so much



Our staff and volunteers had lots of great conversations at the University of North Texas this spring.

common ground, he might have assumed I was a “Nazi” (see picture on reverse) and not had much to say to me, much less have wanted to listen to me. Using common ground, I was able to establish that I was an empathetic, caring person just like he was.

It was truly amazing to see how these initial points of common ground opened the door to his coming around to agreeing with me on more substantial matters:

Jeremy: Imagine if there were a two-year-old child that had many of the same problems that you believe create a need for abortion, such as a low quality of life. Could we kill the two-year-old?

Taylor: No. Ideally he could be adopted or something, but you can’t kill him. By that time he’s a human being.

Jeremy: I agree. And if the unborn is also already a human, like that two-year-old, can you see how it would be equally wrong to kill her?

Taylor: I understand your argument that she’s a human and it’s not right to kill her. However, I think if you think about what’s best for her life, it would be better if she didn’t exist at all.

Jeremy: I can understand how you feel it might be better if some children didn’t exist at all. However, the question with abortion is very different. Abortion doesn’t prevent a child from coming into existence; it kills a child that already exists.

Taylor: I agree with that. That makes it much more complicated.

Taylor and I had a 20-minute conversation about the humanity of the unborn, human rights, and the immorality of abortion. He agreed with most of my arguments. As we talked it became clear that he was the type of person who would not change his mind on the spot, but definitely will reflect on the new information he learned. There may be many people that you feel have extremely different worldviews and with whom it is difficult to connect. Common ground “without compromise”* is the key to building a genuine connection and reasoning together on the issue of abortion.

— Jeremy

* The book *Common Ground Without Compromise*, written by JFA Executive Director Steve Wagner, is available for free at www.commongroundbook.com.