



Ten Minutes

Short Conversations CAN Make a Difference



Tammy Cook's Monthly Update

April 2022

Dear Friends,

Sometimes we are fortunate to talk to students on campus for 30 minutes or longer. Quite often, however, we only get five or ten minutes because students are in a hurry to get to class. That was the case with Missy at Wichita State University (WSU) in the fall of 2021. I was able to cover a lot of ground in ten minutes and I believe our short conversation made a positive impact in her life.

Missy described herself as pro-choice and believed abortion should be legal especially for tough circumstances like rape and poverty. I asked what she would do if she ever found herself in an unplanned pregnancy. She said she would probably have an abortion because she doesn't have the resources or the ability to raise a child.

I acknowledged her fear about an unplanned pregnancy and showed empathy for women in difficult situations. I addressed her concerns about rape and agreed that rape is an incredibly tragic experience for the victim. I stated that we should fully punish rapists and strengthen laws for this injustice. I said that we should combine our efforts toward creating better support systems for rape victims. Missy nodded her head in agreement.

I believe Missy could sense the genuine compassion that I have for women in tough situations, and this helped her stick with me a bit longer. I then had an opportunity to give scientific data that explains why the unborn is a whole human organism just like a two-year old. I explained that I believe the unborn deserve to be part of the human community that is protected by law since they are human as well.

Missy was tracking with me and we had found a lot of common ground. Then she said that abortion is necessary since the foster care system is overflowing. She thinks it would be more humane to abort children instead of putting them into foster care where they will have horrible lives.

I acknowledged that we should do more to help children in foster care and we need better systems in place to find them loving homes. I commended her compassion for these children and her desire for them to have better lives. I assured her that I want the same. I then asked, "If the unborn are valuable humans like the children in foster care, shouldn't we treat them the *same*? Shouldn't we seek to find a loving home for all children without a home, including the unborn? Missy didn't answer, but I could tell she was processing these important questions.

I then asked Missy, "Can I explain some critical information that is not well known regarding foster care, abortion, and adoption? She said, "yes."



*Tammy talking with a
WSU student*

I explained that if abortion is made illegal, then about 800,000 more babies would be born each year in the United States. Most of them, however, would not go directly to an overwhelmed foster care system.

Even though there are not recent statistics available, some sources estimate there are approximately two million couples currently waiting to adopt. That means there are enough couples available to adopt nearly all of these 800,000 babies. There might be some circumstances where a newborn ends up in foster care, but that would be the exception and not the norm.

I further explained that many women with unplanned pregnancies are fearful of adoption because of the expense. I said, "I have worked for attorneys that facilitated private adoptions and I can assure you that it costs nothing for a birthmother to place her child for adoption. The adoptive couple pays for all out-of-pocket medical expenses associated with the birth, and sometimes they even cover living expenses during pregnancy. I have also seen many instances where adoptive couples pay for counseling for the birthmother, *before* and *after* birth. Additionally, the birthmother can typically choose if she wants an open or closed adoption. The adoptive couple sends regular updates and pictures if the birthmother chooses an open adoption plan."

I asked Missy if she's aware of pregnancy resource centers (PRC). She said she is not. I then described the services that PRC's offer and explained that there are three centers here in Wichita ready to help a woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant.

Missy had been listening intently as I described the information about foster care, adoption, and PRC's. She then announced that she had to get to class, but before she left, she said, "You have opened my eyes to new information. Thank you for that. This has been very eye-opening."

I asked if I could share one more thing and she said yes. I said, "I genuinely understand your fears and concerns. Please consider this idea. Just imagine that abortion is made illegal tomorrow. I know that sounds scary. I also know, though, that women are more resourceful than they give themselves credit. We, as women, are great at solving problems. I can tell you from experience that some of the most valuable lessons I have learned have been through adversity. It's not a matter of *if* we will suffer, but a matter of *when*. And it's those tough but valuable lessons that make us stronger to handle the next hardship that comes our way. I have faced a lot of suffering and I can look back after each incident with gratitude. I didn't have to do it alone though—God has been with me every step of the way. Please take everything that I've said to heart." Missy looked very moved and had tears in her eyes. She said, "I will. I will. Thank you."

I stood in awe as Missy walked away. In just ten minutes God had used me to plant seeds to help her think critically about her pro-choice views. "Lord, I pray that you will continue to work on Missy's heart and transform her to be the person you created her to be, and impact those around her for good."

Thank you for your prayers! And thank you so much for your support that makes my work at Justice For All possible. May God bless you.

In Christ,

