



Redesigning the Created Human Being 3: Designer Babies

by *Matt Behrens, Jay Holden, and Tom Roma*

From God's Creation to Man's Making

Focus

Youth will begin to think theologically about the possibility of parents directing the genetic characteristics of their children within the context of marriage, procreation, and parenting according to the Word of God.

Open with Prayer

Procreation Reviewed

God created and parents care and love their children whether in the womb or outside of the womb.

View the following video by aflame4God. Break up into groups of 2 or 3 and discuss the following questions and comments: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwzjWRMDpqq>, Life Begins at Conception, by aflame4God. (Approximately 6 minutes)

1. Children are created by God, not mankind.
2. How does the science that is told in this video by quotes from scientists serve the Biblical Teaching of Creation as told in the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and its Explanation?
3. Discuss the following Bible passages in light of question 2:
Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."
Isaiah 44:24 "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and he whom formed you from the womb."
4. How does the video give understanding to parenting children in the womb and outside of the womb in light of the fifth commandment with its explanation?

Here, it may be helpful to temporarily hold-off on Scripture that the students bring up in addition to the above. There will be a chance within each case study for the small groups to further contribute passages that they know that speak to the said case studies. Students can reflect back on Sections 1 and 2 regarding the case study discussion.

Case Studies

Look at one, two, or all three case studies that follow, and discuss. If you have a larger group (more than 10) it may be helpful to break into smaller groups for this. Having an adult mentor with each group is a good idea. The case studies are as follows:

1. Making a baby outside of the body and in a glass dish.

In vitro fertilization (IVF meaning glass dish), so-called test-tube baby created in a glass dish by mixing the husband's gametes (sperm) with the wife's gametes (eggs called oocytes) is fertilized human being with this smallest of all human beings placed in the wife's womb. View the following video (used with permission) and discuss the pros and cons of this form of assisted reproductive technology in light of Biblical parenting and procreation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJgnc6cN6MA&feature=related>

Bob and Sue cannot have a baby in the 'normal way'. They would like to use the IVF procedure that

was discussed in the video. They have eliminated the Adoption Option. Sue wants to be pregnant. Reflecting back on Section 2, what are your thoughts about this reproductive process as it relates to creation, marriage and procreation in Genesis 1 and 2?

What would you do if you found yourself in Bob and Sue's predicament?

What does the Bible say about parenting in relationship to those extra human embryos that will be left over and frozen at -3210F? Refer back

2. Deciding whether or not to keep a child with a developmental disorder.

Craig and Linda have been married 7 years and do not have any children. They are excited to find out the news that Linda is finally pregnant! They begin to dream about life with a child; picturing an athlete, or a scholar, or a music phenom. After having a pre-natal exam, the doctors informed Craig and Linda that their baby might have Down syndrome, which could mean a lifetime of medical attention for their baby. This child may have severe physical and mental disabilities that may require significant care for his/her entire life. This means Craig and Linda would have a lifetime of caring for this child. The cost for this type of care would be a huge financial burden for them. The doctor has informed Craig and Linda that many couples choose to abort in this situation.

Discussion Questions

What would be some reasons that people choose to abort? Not to abort?

For these questions, just let the youth talk (do not prompt or react to their answers). Listen to the reasons they give for both pro- and anti-abortion as a base line to use for further instruction.

What would you do?

Again, just let the youth talk here (no prompting, no reactions). A bit of silence at this time is not a bad thing; give them time to contemplate/form an answer.

How does God's Word help with this decision/speak to these issues?

God creates life – Creation (Genesis 1-2)

God protects life – God's Law (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5, Leviticus 24)

God humbles us with trials – (Job)

God gives us eternal life with Him through Christ – (Gospels)

What does this say about people who currently live with Down's syndrome; and also those caring for children with Down's syndrome?

Listening to God and His teachings about the sanctity of life;

Trusting in God to provide all that is needed, especially body and soul;

Looking to God to fill their lives with blessings according to His will, not their own wills;

Excitement to raise a child and guide them to learn about Jesus.

View the following video clip (The Exceptional Child, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eEbtr_v0RA) about children with Down's syndrome and then, discuss how difficult is "too difficult" to raise a child? Can you draw the line to say what is "too difficult" in light of all children are gifts from God the creator?

By now, it should be pretty evident that it is impossible that man can say what is "too difficult", but the world today is quick to draw that line. Emphasize that so many people in the world are going to be quite vocal on justifying their decisions to abort, and those decisions are going to be made in blatant opposition to God's plan for life. Christians are going to need to stand firm in trusting what God has said and continues to say to us in His Word. With God, all things are possible!

3. Deciding what sex their child should be.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZDPUxXyCyQ>

Discussion Questions

Is it 'OK' to choose the gender of child?

It would be best to let the youth simply talk through their thoughts or reactions at this point. No need to be guided or led, just listened to and having opinions voiced. Silence is NOT a bad thing.]

What would you do if you were in the family's situation in the video?

Does the Bible speak to the issue of 'Choosing the Gender' of a child? If so, what passages?

Passages given by the youth are welcomed, and can be elaborated on. The following on passages that should be highlighted if they have not been brought up in discussion.

James 3:15-16 – God exhorts man toward contentment and not to pursue selfishness

Genesis 1:1 – "In the beginning GOD created..." God is the creator of all life.

Jeremiah 1:5 – God has always known us, from the point on conception when the sperm unites with the egg – this is the beginning of life as we profess. And in the moment of conception, We Are His!

How does the decision of sex selection overshadow the role of the parents and procreation?

Desire of self-want and selfishness. Focus on James 3:15-16 and the evident selfishness inherent in attempting to control the fate of one's family.

It begins to undermine the intent of God at creation. It begins to attempt to alter the Power, Wisdom and Authority of God while positing our own desires above God's desire for us.

How might the relationship between the child and parent be affected by the decision of the parent to choose the sex of their child?

Any additional concerns regarding this approach to having a child? How do you understand, 'Family Planning' as presented in this video in light of the First Commandment?

Close with Prayer