FIELDSTONE CHURCH

What Does God Say About the Unborn?

Value, Dignity, and Grace at Every Stage of Life

Weekly Discipleship Resources 3.8.26

Full Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Thought

Few topics carry as much emotional weight as this one. Our views on the unborn are shaped by a complex mix of faith, personal experience, politics, and family — and most of us are somewhere in the middle of working all of that out. Today's message didn't try to win an argument. It asked a more important question: What does God actually say?

What we find in Scripture is a God who is intimately involved in every life — before birth, after birth, and everywhere in between. He assigns value, dignity, and spiritual identity to the unborn. And for those carrying the weight of difficult past circumstances, the same God who loves the unborn also extends radical, complete, and final grace.

Big Ideas

1. The most important question isn't political — it's theological: When does God assign personhood, value, and spiritual identity to a human life?
2. In Luke 1, the unborn John the Baptist experienced joy and was filled with the Holy Spirit — both qualities Scripture reserves exclusively for people, not cells or animals.
3. The same Greek word used for the unborn John in Luke 1 is used for the newborn Jesus in Luke 2 — Scripture makes no distinction in status between the two.
4. God declares that all human life bears his image (Genesis 1:27), that unborn life is specially crafted and known before birth (Psalm 139, Jeremiah 1:5), and that the unborn are already spiritual beings (Psalm 51).
5. God's question for us is never "How far is too far?" — it's "Do you love what I love, value what I value, and protect what I protect?"
6. For anyone impacted by brokenness in this area, the answer is the same as it is for every broken thing: grace through Jesus — immediate, complete, and final.

Ice Breaker

(Light and easy — a good on-ramp for any group)

Growing up, was there a topic that felt too complicated or controversial to talk about in your house? How did that shape how you approach hard conversations today?

Scripture Discussion & Life Application

Take your time with these. Some questions may open up personal territory — lead with care, and grace, and create space for honesty.

Understanding Scripture

1. Read **Luke 1:39-44** and **Luke 1:13-15**.
   What stands out to you about how Luke describes the unborn John? What does it mean that he was "filled with the Holy Spirit" before birth?
2. Read **Psalm 139:13-16** and **Jeremiah 1:4-5**.
   What do these passages tell us about God's involvement with human life before it is born?
3. Read **Genesis 1:27**.
   What does it mean to be made "in the image of God" — and how does that change the way we think about human life at any stage?

Personal Reflection

4. The message described our views on this topic as a "cocktail" of faith, politics, personal experience, and emotion. Honestly, w**hich of those ingredients has had the most influence** on how you think about the unborn?
5. Is there anything from Scripture you heard in this message that **challenged** or **shifted** something in your thinking? What was it?

Life Application

6. The message said God's question isn't "How far is too far?" but "**Do you love what I love?"** What would it look like for you to practically apply that posture to this issue — or to another difficult topic in your life?
7. Every person you encounter bears the image of God — your neighbor, the unborn, the coworker who gets on your nerves, even the person on the other side of a political argument or a heated online thread. **How does that truth challenge the way you actually see and treat people in your everyday life?**

Prayer Prompt

Father, this is a topic that touches some of us deeply in ways others in this room may not know. We ask for your gentleness as we sit with it. Thank you that you are not distant or indifferent — that you are intimately involved in every life, from the very beginning. Give us your heart for the vulnerable. Give us wisdom for hard conversations. And for anyone in this room carrying pain or regret from the past, remind them that your grace is not withheld — it is offered fully, freely, and finally through Jesus. Amen.