

Align Week 3 – God's Value For Life
Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro: What part of the message did you find the most challenging?

Opening Questions:

- If you were to spend 30 minutes watching or reading the news of the day, what would you learn about the way the world values the poor, the sick, the vulnerable and the weak?
- Both Osama bin Laden and Mother Theresa considered themselves very devoted to their religion and the mission of God. They gave their lives for it. How did they view life and the lives of others differently? What was their legacy?

Read Psalm 139 as a Group:

1. What does this Psalm tell us about God's knowledge of us? About God's presence with us? About God's care for us? How does this communicate the value He places on us?
2. If God is actively involved in the creation of every life, what does this tell us about the value He places on each life?
3. If no life is accidental or outside of God's knowledge, what does this say about what we would call unintended pregnancies or children born with birth defects of one kind or another?
4. If God's hand is involved in the creation of all life, what does this say about the potential for every life and the desire God has to relate to each person?
5. Since the phrase "pro-life" has often taken on only political connotations, can Christians redeem that phrase? If not, what should we replace it with? How would that communicate the Christian value of life?

Authors Philip Yancey said, *"Our confused society badly needs a community of contrast, a counterculture of ordinary pilgrims who insist on living a different way. We can make the world stop and think before pulling a trigger or exacting revenge or neglecting the vulnerable or euthanizing those it deems 'devoid of value.' . . . Though we will not sweep all evil from the world, we can at least present a shining alternative."*

6. How can Christians together be this visible alternative? How can you be a visible alternative yourself?
7. How can we communicate (individually and together) in WORD and DEED that all life is valuable?
8. How can we help to remove shame from people who have engaged in past behavior that devalued life so they will be able to see Jesus and His saving grace?
9. What would it look like for you to be an agent of redemption to spread a culture of life?