Lesson 1: **The Sanctity of Life**

Principle of the week:

**The importance of life comes from the origin of life.**

*the Origin of life.*

Genesis 1:26-27, “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them*.”

Not only did God create us separate from the animals, but He created us above the animals as well. The reason we put importance on human life is because God does.

The "sanctity of life" really boils down to the "origin of life". If you are just a product of an accident or if you’re just here by chance, then you'll live and die and that will be the end of it all. Then why not just do what you want? Why not steal, lie, cheat, or even murder to get what you want? If we come from a "big bang" then where do we get the standards for right and wrong and good and evil? This is the kind of thinking that leads to under-appreciating or abusing life, because we don't see it as sacred.

Sanctity means holiness, or to be set apart for a holy use. God sees human life different than the animals because He made us to be unique. The Bible says in Genesis 2:7, “*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* The Bible also describes us in Psalm 139:14, “*…I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well*.”

We see from the Bible that God highly values all life, BUT DO YOU?

Genesis 1:27, *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*

**Challenges:** Fill out these questions from the lesson. Each challenge you complete is worth 100 points for your team.

1. What does the sanctity of life boil down to?

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2. Mankind and animals were created equal. [ True / False ]
3. Define sanctity: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4. When God created man, what did He put him over (give him rule over?)
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5. What kind of thinking leads to under-appreciating or abusing life?
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**Additional challenges:**

* Memorize Genesis 1:27 and quote it to your leader.
* List two things you learned or were reminded of tonight that made you put more value (sanctity) on life.
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2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Ask 3 friends "where did life come from?" and record their answers.
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2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.