

## Open the Casket

**Main Scripture:** Proverbs 31:1-9

**Additional Scriptures:** Genesis 1:27, Luke 18:1-7, Genesis 9:6, Job 10:8-12, Isaiah 44:2, Psalm 139:13-16, Luke 1:41, 44, Exodus 21:22-25, Isaiah 53:5-6

### Hearing: Discussion Questions

- **Read Proverbs 31:1-9.** “Kings were made for courage. God has given power for the sake of stewarding it for those who need help, so open your mouth!” How is your small group opening your mouth for the poor, weak, and voiceless?
  - Are you satisfied with what you are doing?
  - How else could you be opening your mouth and moving into action?
- Pastor Mike said “You are not supposed to judge the person, but you *are* supposed to judge actions.” How do you judge an action without judging the person? What does that look like?
  - How do you approach and judge someone’s action without judging them as a person? Give an example of a time you saw this done correctly.
- **Read Genesis 1:27 & 9:6.** The King of Kings marked humanity in His image. How does this change your viewpoint on murder? War? The sanctity of life?
- **Read Luke 1:41-44 & Exodus 21:22-25.** Pastor Mike said that there is only one real question in the abortion issue: is the unborn fetus made in the image of God? Discuss these verses in light of these questions and explain your answer and how you got there Biblically.
- What other questions arise in the abortion issue and how can you field these questions in light of the question above?
- “We drastically underestimate how influenced we are by culture.” How are we influenced in subtle ways by the culture around us. How do we guard ourselves from being so easily swayed by cultural perceptions and opinions?

### Doing: Application

- **Read Luke 18:1-7 & James 2:14-18.** What are you wrestling with in prayer, especially in regards to issues of justice? What are you *doing* about it?
- On the next two pages are some issues that we as a church have taken up and some ways to get involved. Pick one issue and do something about it, whether that is writing an email or letter or even signing up for foster parenting classes. You can do this at small group or throughout the week, but the bottom line is to do it!

## **Justice that you can do NOW:**

### **Fight for the rights of the orphan:**

1. **Help the orphans in Haiti.** Contact the following government officials from Florida and either call, fax, or write them. Pray and be polite, straight forward and brief. Below is a sample of what to say. Feel free to copy exactly if you wish.

“Thank you for supporting the humanitarian parole for the children who are already matched with a family in the United States. BUT, we must do something for the orphans who were not yet matched. There were thousands in orphanages with documentation before the earthquake. Those children are EXTREMELY vulnerable right now and must be granted the same humanitarian parole. Where do you stand on expanding humanitarian parole for them? What actions are you taking to ensure they are safe?”

Also, you can contact the Haitian Embassy at [www.haiti.org](http://www.haiti.org) as well.

Here are the contacts to write, call, or fax:

George LeMieux  
US Senate  
356 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510  
(202) 224-3041  
Fax: (202) 228-5171

Cliff Stearns  
2370 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5744  
Fax: (202) 225-3973

Bill Nelson  
US Senate  
716 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-5274  
Fax: (202) 228-2183

Corrine Brown  
2444 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-0123  
Fax: (202) 225-2256

***What is humanitarian parole? It is an extraordinary measure, sparingly used to bring an otherwise inadmissible alien into the United States for a temporary period of time due to a very compelling emergency. Note that humanitarian parole may only be requested for persons who are outside the US. Parole into the US may be granted temporarily on a case by case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.***

## Fight for the rights of the unborn:

1. **Visit [bound4life.com](http://bound4life.com), [abort73.com](http://abort73.com), and [blackgenocide.org](http://blackgenocide.org) and get informed about abortion.**
2. **Become a foster parent.** First, contact Partnership for Strong Families at (352) 393-2740 ext. 334 or fill out the [Foster Parent Sign-up form](#).

Next, you will be mailed a packet of information and invited to an orientation meeting where you will be given a detailed overview of the foster care program and the licensing and application process.

After that, you will begin at least 30 hours of foster parent training, called Model Approach to Partnership and Parenting (MAPP). The kinds of topics you will discuss include: - Reasons you want to foster a child - Your childhood - Your marriage (if applicable) - Your lifestyle and whether it could accommodate a child - Your finances - Your parenting philosophy - Your support system

After completing the MAPP training, a study of your home will be conducted. A background check of law enforcement records will be made for you and your family. Your friends, relatives and employers will be contacted to give character references for you and your family.

When you have successfully completed the preparation sessions and the home study has been completed with a recommendation for you to become a foster parent, you will receive a license to be a foster parent. You've made it!

The entire licensing process should be completed in about six months from the date you attend the orientation session. Once you are licensed as a foster parent, a child can come to live with you. Each year that you continue as a foster parent, you will need to attend 8 hours of recertification training on issues such as child development, attachment disorder, and how to support relationships between children and their families. You will also have to renew your foster parent license annually.

The length of time a child in foster care will live with you will vary from child to child. During the time a child resides with you, the state will reimburse you for at least part of the cost of caring for the child. The reimbursement rate is determined by the age of the child. In addition, health costs for children in care are covered by Medicaid. A foster care counselor will meet with you and the child(ren) in your home at least once a month and will be available to assist with concerns and questions.