



A Christian Response to Euthanasia

Session 3 Leader Outline

Student Handouts

- Student Handout #5: "Principles Governing Medical Treatment Decisions" (repeat from session #2)
- Student Handout #6: "Case Study One" Grandma M.
"Case Study Two" Tiny Tom
"Case Study Three" Grandma P.
"Case Study Four" Mr. A.

Scripture for Session 3

Objectives

- To identify biblical guidelines to making end of life decision.
- To apply guidelines to actual case studies.

Welcome/Prayer

Welcome students and open with prayer. Be sure any new members of the group have the student handouts from previous sessions, especially Student Handout #5 "Principles Governing Medical Treatment Decisions."

As the first two sessions have pointed out so clearly, big changes are taking place in the world today: changes in government, changes in medicine and law, and changes in the opportunities for Christians to do something about world problems. With these changes comes the need to have some guidelines when making difficult end of life decisions.

Read the scripture: Psalm 139:13-16

- **What does the word say about the value of our lives?**
- **Who decides when it is our time to die?**

Show Session 3 of the DVD

Set the stage for this segment of the DVD introducing the case of Anna Hirth, which is similar to the case studies the students will be discussing later in the class. This segment includes a review of the principles governing treatment decisions and illustrates the Nazi connection to euthanasia and the slippery slope.

Discussion

Discuss students reaction to the DVD remembering to allow ample time for role playing the following case studies.

Pass out Student Handout #5 "Principles Governing Medical Treatment Decisions" (from previous session)

Pass out Student Notes #6 "Case Studies."

Role Play

We have provided you with four actual cases that were submitted by a registered nurse and are real life situations requiring ethical decision-making by health care providers and family. Separate the class into four groups giving each group a different case to review on their own. Have the groups use the "Principles Governing Medical Treatment Decisions" handout as a guideline in their decision making. Allow 10 minutes for each group to discuss among themselves what decisions they would have made and then give each group 5 minutes to share their decisions with the class. (May use only two or three of the case studies for discussion if time is limited).

As technology advances and becomes more complex Christians will need to be better informed and educated on the scripture and be encouraged to seek a deeper prayer life. This will enable them to make decisions that are faithful to the Lord. They should also be reminded that there is no greater joy than the peace and assurance of knowing that, whatever the future may hold, they are secure in the loving arms of the Savior.

Conclusions: Our faith in the Lord comes through prayer, meditation and yes even suffering. It is on these battlegrounds that our faith and our belief are put into practice and where people struggle with their relationship with God, and are strengthened in the grace of God.

As Christians we are challenged to help each other through difficult times. As we live this reality, we begin to see those we love who are suffering, not as burdens to be eliminated, but as a personal invitation to love.

Share with the class that the next and final session will be covering ways to protect ourselves and those we love from euthanasia including what documents to sign.

Closing Moment

Pray for the suffering and for those that may be in danger of euthanasia. Thank God for His protection upon their lives and His presence throughout all suffering.