**Not included in book**

Chapter 1

- Are you more like Miss Never Wrong or Mr. Disengage?

- “You and I are both seeking truth.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

- Think of someone who disagrees with you about something you care a lot about (such as abortion). Now think of actively seeking to agree with him or her about some aspect of the topic. Is the idea of building common ground difficult for you to embrace?
Chapter 2

- Do you see those who disagree with you about abortion first as human beings or potential converts? Is each one a person who deserves respect or a prize to be won?

- ** Do you think we’re building genuine common ground if we don’t end up agreeing on every important belief? What if we don’t agree on whether abortion should be legal or illegal? Can we really have genuine common ground?

- Have you ever found yourself agreeing with someone on the other side of the abortion issue either silently or in a conversation?

- “We both think we are correct about this issue.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
• ** Do you agree that someone can be mistaken in their moral claims about abortion? Why or why not?

• Where do you stand on abortion? Use these four questions to reflect:

  1. *Is abortion wrong in any specific circumstances at any specific points in pregnancy?*

  2. *Why do you hold these beliefs about the morality of abortion?*

  3. *Should abortion be illegal in any specific circumstances at any specific points in pregnancy?*

  4. *Why do you hold these beliefs about the legality of abortion?*
• How do you approach the process of answering these four questions? Are principles or pragmatic considerations more important? Which do you naturally favor?

• Are there other aspects of the abortion issue these questions don’t capture? Do you feel that these other aspects get enough attention in most discussions of abortion?

• Is building common ground important? If so, do you value common ground as an end in itself? Or is common ground only important as a tool for helping you persuade someone to change her opinion?

• What fears or doubts do you have about the idea of building common ground?
• Look at Martin Luther King, Jr.’s comment about extremists in this chapter. Do you think those who are pro-life or those who are pro-choice are the “extremists” for “love” and for “justice”?

Chapter 3

• What reasons for building common ground are most persuasive to you?

• Think of a recent conversation you had about a controversial issue such as abortion. How could you have been more purposeful about building common ground? In what ways would that have helped the conversation?

• ** Are there issues other than abortion that would benefit from a healthy dose of common ground?
Chapter 4

Question 1

- Do you think late-term abortion should be legal?

- How did you come to your conclusion about late-term abortion?

- What do you think about Gonzales v. Carhart, the Supreme Court decision that allowed a ban on one late-term abortion procedure (D&X) in 2007?

Question 2

- Does the topic of abortion make you uncomfortable? Why?

- Are you opposed to repeat abortions? Why or why not?

- Do you see a moral difference between a repeat abortion and an ‘oops’ abortion?
Question 3

- Consider the current legal situation in some states: Fathers may not abort their fetuses, but they must pay child support if and when the children are born. Is this unfair?

- Do you believe that if a father (or other person) kills a wanted fetus, the crime should be punished as an unjustified homicide against a human being?

- In this section, I concluded that in much of the United States, the working philosophy of the law is that the mother’s opinion of her fetus changes what the fetus is. Is my analysis correct?

- Do you believe that the mother’s opinion of the fetus changes what the fetus is? Does the mother’s opinion alone determine if the fetus deserves the protection of law?
Question 4

- What do you think about sex-selection abortion? Why do you think many people are repulsed by it?

- I argue in this section that the only way to make sense of Sheth’s two comments, that we should oppose sex-selection abortion and promote reproductive rights, is the unlikely reading that she is arguing for the reproductive rights of both born and unborn women. Is there another way to make her claims work together?

- Are there reasons to oppose sex-selection abortion that I have omitted in this section?

Question 5

- If you support abortion rights, are you mostly concerned about protecting the right to abortion in “life of the mother” circumstances, in other specific circumstances, or in most any circumstance?
• Many pro-life advocates say they think abortion should be illegal except in cases where it is necessary to save the life of the mother. Does this seem inconsistent to you?

• Aside from ectopic pregnancy, are there life-threatening situations that you believe justify abortion? If yes, what are they?

Question 6

• If you are pro-choice, do you genuinely want there to be fewer abortions? Do you believe this can be accomplished without increasing restrictions on abortion?

• If you are pro-life, is it difficult for you to recognize common ground with a pro-choice advocate like Hillary Clinton even when she says she wants fewer abortions? Why?
• If common ground with Clinton is difficult for you because you suspect Clinton is being dishonest, are you able to believe that other pro-choice advocates genuinely do want fewer abortions?

• If you are pro-choice and want fewer abortions, why do you want fewer abortions?

• If you are pro-life and you criticize Clinton’s statement during a discussion with pro-choice advocates, do you think your criticism will build bridges with them?

Chapter 5

Question 7

• If you are pro-life, do you feel that Question 7 represents a compromise position that you must reject? Do you believe you must say all abortions are equal? Why?
• If you are pro-choice, do you feel that the circumstances make Susie's abortion not only understandable but also the right thing to do? Is determining right and wrong in Susie’s situation even important?

• In your opinion, which circumstances are the most understandable? Do the circumstances change whether abortion is right or wrong?

**Question 8**

• Do you know someone who has made a flippant abortion decision?

• Do you agree with Anne that because a woman has reasoning ability, her choice of abortion is always the right choice for her?

• **See Question 11 for the reasons most women have abortions. Do any seem flippant, callous, or lighthearted to you?**
• Can you think of current laws in your state that discourage flippant abortion decisions? Do you believe these laws are reasonable? Should they be more strict or more relaxed?

Question 9

• If you are pro-choice, imagine that Mary’s circumstances lead you to believe that abortion is the best option for her. Is it difficult for you to encourage her, in contrast to your opinion, to act in accordance with her own beliefs and give birth to the child? Why?

• If you are pro-life, imagine that Mary’s circumstances lead her to believe she can’t possibly give birth, even though that’s what she wants to do. What would you offer to do for her? How far would you go to act in accordance with your pro-life beliefs and make sure she had the support she needed to give birth? Would you welcome her into your home, sacrifice a vacation, or offer to adopt her child? If not, why not?
Question 10

- Dylan’s dad said that the list of Dylan’s accomplishments he provided is simply an expression of the pride dads have for their children. He followed the list with this question, “Do you believe these abilities make Dylan valuable?” What do you think?

- Imagine that Dylan had very few functional abilities. Would the deficiency make him less valuable?

- ** Some have suggested that many of the people who oppose abortion in the case of disability do so only until they must deal with the situation themselves. Even those who believe it’s wrong to abort a deformed child turn to abortion when their theoretical discussion becomes their reality. What would you do if you became pregnant with a Down syndrome child? Why?
Chapter 6

Question 11

• Before reading this section, what was your perception of public opinion on abortion?

• Do you agree that more specific polling would show more opposition to abortion?

• If you’re against abortion in most cases, would you be willing to see it restricted at a certain point in the pregnancy or for certain reasons?

• What reasons for abortion do you think should be allowed by law?
Question 12

- What do you think about accurate abortion pictures when they are shown with adequate warning in a doctor’s office, through Internet research, or in a presentation?

- If pictures are shown in public with little warning, do you believe they might be helpful to some?

- Are there downsides to showing accurate abortion pictures, either with a warning or without?

- ** Compare and contrast the benefits of using non-graphic ultrasound images (or other in utero images) for building common ground on abortion.
Question 13

• In your experience, is the discussion about when life begins centered on biology or philosophy?

• If you are pro-choice, how do the biological facts presented in this section affect your view of abortion? Do they seem relevant or helpful to the discussion of abortion?

• If you are pro-life, think back over your interactions about abortion. Would it have helped to clarify the biological common ground mentioned in this section?

• Do you think this question can help move abortion discussions forward?
Question 14

• Are you opposed to abortion if it causes a significant amount of pain to the fetus?

• What do you consider to be a “significant amount of pain”?

• Consider the amount of pain a woman goes through in pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood. Does her desire to avoid these pains justify causing pain to the fetus?

Chapter 7

Question 15

• What do you think should be the social or legal consequences of a man abandoning a woman once she gets pregnant?
• If we expect the man to care for the child after birth, how does this affect your beliefs about the man’s ability to make a choice about abortion before birth?

Question 16

• In what ways do people “pressure” women into having an abortion?

• Consider the person who tries to persuade a woman not to have an abortion. Does this constitute “pressure,” and do you think it is wrong?

• Think of what you might say to someone considering abortion. Would you affirm her regardless of what she decides or the reasons she gives for making her decision? Why?
Question 17

- If you disagree with parental involvement laws, what is your perception of the risk abortion poses to a pregnant woman? Is your view supported by good reasons?

- If you agree with parental notification or consent, is it because you believe the unborn is a human being, because you care about the health of the pregnant teen, or both?

- Do you think the possibility that family members might treat a daughter harshly if they found out she was pregnant is a good reason to keep a judicial bypass in parental notification laws?
** Even if you are pro-choice, is it reasonable to make sure the law includes sufficient medical guidelines regulating how abortions are done?

Chapter 8

Question 18

- Even if you wouldn't make use of adoption, do you believe it is a good choice to encourage?

- What are the upsides and downsides of adoption? How did you come to your conclusions?
Question 19

- Use the following questions to consider your views on sexuality:
  - Is sex merely recreational?
  - Should sex and marriage be connected?
  - Should sex be treated like a physical need that must be met?
  - Should sex be treated as a need that’s appropriate to meet in a broad range of contexts, or only in marriage?
  - If teenagers “will” do something, should we make sure they do it “safely”?
• Use the following questions to consider your views on sex education:
  o What means of preventing pregnancy will be emphasized?
  o Will any means of preventing pregnancy be omitted from education?
  o At what point in the child’s development will sex education be provided?
  o Who will provide the sex education?
• Do you believe condoms are an adequate solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy?

• Do you believe an approach that downplays the importance of condoms and focuses on building self-control is realistic?

Question 20

• When pro-choice advocates talk of abortion as “terminating pregnancy,” do you think they are open to any option that terminates pregnancy, including giving birth? In other words, is the concern to do away with the pregnancy only, or is the concern also that the unborn dies in the process?

• When we discuss aborting a pregnancy, should the option of giving birth be given more weight?

• Are there reasons you think “giving birth” is too idealistic to be emphasized as an option?
Question 21

- Have you ever met someone who thought some women should be forced to have abortions?

Chapter 9

Question 22

- Consider the thesis that human nature is the ground of human rights because it is something all adults have equally. Can you think of another ground for human rights that explains both how strongly we believe in rights and how strongly we believe we have rights equally?

- Do you agree that any argument for abortion must both ground human rights and argue further that the unborn doesn't fit the case? Do you agree that any argument against abortion must both ground human rights and argue further that the unborn does fit the case?
Question 23

- If you are pro-life, is it difficult to identify back-alley abortions as a tragedy?

- If you are pro-choice, do you justify abortion by appealing to the danger of illegal abortions? How do you respond to pro-choice philosopher Mary Anne Warren, who claims this isn't a good reason for abortion rights? Do you agree that women always have a third option?

- Are there lethal activities other than abortion that we keep legal in order to make them safer? Are there immoral activities we keep legal in order to make them safer?
Chapter 10

Question 24

- If you believe listening to opposing opinions is important, how do you purposefully seek out and listen to those opinions?

- If you don’t think listening to opposing opinions is important, how can you safeguard yourself from believing false ideas?
• The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” The current legal consensus is that this amendment protects the public display of graphic abortion photographs. Do you agree with this interpretation? Why or why not?

• ** Do you agree with the current interpretation of free speech in the United States that censors the lascivious display of breasts, buttocks, or genitals (obscenity), but not the display of large graphic photographs of aborted fetuses?

Question 25

• Consider a friend who has had an experience with abortion. What suggestions can you make to the pro-life and pro-choice sides as they engage in dialogue on the issue in the presence of your friend? How can they be helpful to your friend even as they try to move the dialogue forward in a productive way?
1. Do You Care about the Current Realities that Accompany Sex and Unplanned Pregnancy?

- If you are pro-life, is it difficult for you to separate the moral debate about abortion and the debate about caring for practical problems? Consider how you might make a distinction in conversations with pro-choice advocates so that the moral concern you bring and the practical concern the pro-choice side brings can be weighed more carefully and accurately.

- If you are pro-choice, is it difficult for you to connect with the moral concerns pro-life advocates have because the practical concerns seem so insurmountable? Do you think the moral question of whether abortion is right or wrong is important to consider?
2. Can You Acknowledge the Facts?

- This section covers a few facts pro-life advocates should make sure to acknowledge. Pro-choice advocates also should make sure to check their facts. Here is one additional example for each side of the debate: Many pro-life advocates claim that the unborn has brain waves at six weeks post-fertilization. Yet this is a very difficult claim to substantiate. Many pro-choice advocates claim that thousands of women died from illegal abortions before abortion was legal. This claim is also very difficult to substantiate. To both pro-life and pro-choice advocates: Do you agree that it is important to correct our facts, even if that means we lose a tool that had been useful for persuading people?

3. Do You Care about Real Solutions?

- If you are a pro-life advocate, is it difficult to read my claim that pregnancy resource centers are imperfect solutions to the problem of unplanned pregnancy? Why is it difficult to admit that our best solutions are still imperfect?
• If you are a pro-choice advocate, is it difficult to admit that pro-life advocates are providing good services to women in their pregnancy resource centers? If you believe these centers are not helping women, are you basing your belief on first-hand experience with a center, or are you basing your belief on things you have heard from pro-choice advocates? Is it fair to criticize a pregnancy resource center without first-hand experience?

4. Do You Care about the Rule Of Law?

• If you are a pro-life advocate, imagine that someone says you are being inconsistent if you are not willing to kill abortion doctors to defend the unborn. You think the unborn are human beings, and abortion kills them, after all. How do you defend your claim that all abortion-related violence is wrong?

• If you are a pro-choice advocate, would you be willing to condemn violence done to pro-life advocates for their views? Do you believe most pro-life advocates are willing to kill for their views, or do you believe most pro-life advocates are peaceful?
Chapter 12

- Are you afraid to talk about abortion with friends and family? Why?

- Fran Lebowitz wrote, “Polite conversation is rarely either.” Do you think this applies to the abortion debate? Do you agree?

- Do you feel you strike a good balance between entertainment and serious moral discussion? If so, how can you help others to do the same?

- Rate your level of concern about the abortion issue. How do you think your concern has been affected by your personal interactions with abortion or your lack of personal interaction?
• Whether you are pro-life or pro-choice, do you see any point in creating good dialogue on abortion? Think of three good reasons for creating dialogue.

• Locate a television news story on the Internet, watch the coverage, then transcribe it. Once you see the number of words being said and the content communicated, how do you feel about leaving the discussion of abortion and other important topics to the television and Internet media? Do you agree with this section, that the media themselves limit the discussion to very shallow platitudes?

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