

## **LIFE Group Leader Handout**

June 4, 2017

### **Precious from the Start**

Pastor Michael O'Connor

#### **Scripture—Various**

Genesis 1:27-28a

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them...*

Jeremiah 1:5

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."*

Romans 5:8

*...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

#### **Main Idea—God Values Life from the Very Start**

- Humans are uniquely created in the image of God—see Genesis 1:27-8
- That high regard for life extends through time to the present day—See Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139, Luke 1
- Even when we have messed up, and even though we live in a world that is messed up, God from Creation's birth has a redemption plan that affirms that life is precious to Him—from the very start.—see Revelation 13:8b—*"...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*

#### **Application—**

- What was your take away from this service?
- How was Jennifer Shaw's testimony an affirmation of God's view of the value of life?
- What beneficial action is God directing in your life to bring His value of life more fully into your life?

## 8 WAYS TO MAKE SUMMER COUNT

by Philip Nation

I want to challenge your thinking about summer. You can still go on a trip, play in the pool, and camp with the kids. But what if you decided to make it a missional summer? Instead of counting the days until it was over, make your summer count!

Here are eight ways:

**Look at people with eternity in mind.** Everyone has an eternity in front of them. We need to see them as God does and care for them like it counts.

**Show some hospitality.** Believers should be the people that everyone else wants to be around. So be the person who invites everyone over for a cookout or a game night. Remember, you're the ambassador for Christ so get into the lives of people living outside the kingdom.

**Watch for a chance to serve.** People give away all of their energy on family, work, and menial chores. Look for ways that you can care for your neighbors--even if it is just cooking a simple dinner for them.

**Visit someone new.** Look around your community and find someone who needs a friend. Maybe it is visiting in a nursing home or rocking babies in the intensive care unit of a nearby hospital. Make your days count with people who feel they don't.

**Go somewhere unexpected.** It is not too late to get your family's name on the list for a mission trip. Leave your inhibitions behind and get going to a place that needs to hear about Jesus, whether it's downtown or on the other side of the globe.

**Take somebody with you.** Whatever you do, don't do it alone! Take your family, get your small group involved, or invite the whole church to go out on mission. And make sure to take the kids. They're ready to change the world, so let them.

**Be truthful.** Missional believers contend for the faith while speaking in a way understandable to the hearer. No matter what--be ready to tell the story of Jesus.

**Love like Jesus.** He lived a robust life of caring for the lost. He did it by meeting their needs and telling them the truth. And I can think of no better way to make your summer count than doing both of those.