



Session 7: Protect Human Life  
Suggested Week of Use: January 18, 2015  
Core Passages: Gen. 9:1-7; Ps. 8:4-8;  
Prov. 24:10-12; Phil. 2:12-16a

## News Story Summary

December 2014 was reported to be the deadliest year for the Syrian civil war since it began in 2011. The casualty count included 3,500 children. Many other children of Syria's war have been displaced from their homes and live as refugees. But two Syrian Americans have not forgotten them. Lina Sergie Attar and Kinda Hibrawi volunteer at the Al Salam school in Reyhanli, Turkey. In December they completed their third trip to the school where they worked as mentors to more than 2,000 Syrian children. Lina recalls one child who was in such despair that he could not do a simple exercise that called for him to draw an image of his future home. He said he just wanted to grow up really fast so he could die. But after one year at the school, he was able to draw a picture of the future home where he would like to live.

When in the US, Lina and Kinda work to raise money to aid Syrian families who have been touched by the war, especially children.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrases "suffering families in Syria" and "Syrian children.")

## Focus Attention

Prior to the study, search the Internet for a photo of shattered glass. Tack the photo to a board and write *shattered lives* on the board.

As group members arrive, call attention to the photo and the statement on the board. Share the story about the Syrian children who are refugees in Turkey. Ask: *In what ways does a war shatter the lives of children? How could the children be valued and protected during the war?*

Say: *God values human life as revealed in several passages in the Bible. Genesis 9 attests to the sacredness of human life through a covenant that God made with Noah. In Psalms 8 David marvels at the significance and care of humankind who were made in the image of God. In Proverbs 24 and Philippians 2, we are admonished to get involved in the lives of people who are devalued and to do all we can to rescue those who suffer.*

Emphasize the value of all people in God's eyes and our responsibility to value ourselves and others and respond to defend and protect the helpless, including unborn children. Ask: *In what ways has God personally revealed your worth to you? How did Lina and Kinda's actions show the worth of the Syrian children?*

## **Challenge**

Remind the group of the story about the Syrian children. Lead the group to list things that could shatter the life of a child. Ask: *In what ways have you witnessed or experienced any of these things in your life or in the lives of children?* (Be sensitive to testimonies of hurt or abuse.)

Challenge group members to investigate how as a group they can become involved in the lives of children who have been victimized or made to suffer, or how they may help to educate women on the value of human life within the womb.

Lead in prayer, praising God that we are made in His image and for the worth of every person He has made. Ask God to lead group members in their quest to rescue those who are suffering.



Bonus Session:  
Establish Justice in God's Community  
Suggested Week of Use: January 18, 2015  
Core Passages: Nehemiah 5:1-13

**NOTE: A bonus session from the Bible book of Nehemiah was included in the Winter 2014-15 resources. This bonus session could be used on January 18 in support of the Sanctity of Human Life in terms of standing against injustice and unfair treatment.**

### News Story Summary

Amazon requires warehouse workers to be go through antitheft screenings at the end of a work shift. Amazon does not pay the workers during the screenings which can take up to a half-hour of time. Some workers sued Amazon and the case made it all the way to the US Supreme Court. In December, the justices unanimously ruled in favor of Amazon because the time spent waiting to be screened wasn't an "integral and indispensable" part of the jobs. The decision may impact other companies and suits where employees have sued for payment of time spent before or after work.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the words "Amazon workers suit for overtime.")

### Focus Attention

As group members arrive, briefly share about the Amazon worker lawsuit. Lead the group to discuss if they believe the employees should be paid for the time spent during the antitheft screening and why. Challenge them to think of other jobs that require some type of action prior to or after work that is not compensated (ex: steel worker putting on protective gear).

Explain that Nehemiah encountered a problem with the way workers were being treated. A grievance was voiced and Nehemiah took action. Challenge the group to look for the principles upon which Nehemiah acted as they study today's passage.

### Challenge

Remind the group of the story about the lawsuit. Invite the group to suggest solutions to the Amazon grievance based on today's study that could have been taken that would have been a win-win for both parties. Challenge the group to consider identify actions that would have demonstrated value by both parties.

Lead in prayer, asking God to bless group members to seek to love and restore those who have experienced an injustice. Ask God to lead us to seek the standard of Jesus Christ when dealing with perceived injustices.