The “right to choose” seems indisputable until we consider the fact that our choices affect the choices of others. In some cases, our choice gives another person no choice at all. This is the reality when we discuss the uncomfortable topic of abortion. It forces us to think about weighing a mother’s rights against her child’s. When we choose to lay down our rights, no matter the cost, we follow Jesus’ example. Whatever stage of life’s journey you find yourself in, it helps to remember that Jesus doesn’t ask us to do anything He wasn’t willing to do himself.

1. The tone of our conversations matter. You can have your say, but it might be all you get to say. Have you ever engaged in a discussion where you wanted to get your point across about a sensitive political or moral issue? How did you approach it? What was the result?

   Leader Note: The temptation is to share a story about when others wanted to share their point badly. Focus on getting your group members to talk about themselves, not others. Either way, when we realize how our words affect others, we might choose to lay down our right to argue our position.

   “And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

2. Read Luke 22:39-46. In this passage Jesus clearly “feels the weight,” yet He chooses to lay down His rights. What difficult situation have you faced (or are you facing today) where you can choose to “trust God more than you trust yourself?”

   Leader Note: Our speaker pointed out how Jesus “trusted God more than He trusted Himself” in this passage. Consider Philippians 2:5-11 which describes Jesus’ act of humility in laying down his life. Maybe someone in your group is at a different place on this journey right now. We know from scripture that Jesus experienced every kind of pain. See Isaiah 53:3-5 which describes Jesus as
“despised and rejected,” “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” Despite those things, He died for us and through Him we are healed.

“Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” - Luke 7:47 (ESV)

3. **Read Luke 7:36-50.** The woman in this passage was forgiven her many sins because she loved much. As a result of that forgiveness, her capacity to love increased. How can our own forgiven sins give us the capacity to love **much**?

*Leader Note:* Scripture tells us that God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. It is only when we are honest about how far we have fallen that we can truly appreciate the depth of the grace we have been extended. However, knowing we are forgiven and feeling forgiven can often be two different steps in our journey. Some may feel their sins are not forgiven. If that is shared or the group becomes emotional, take time to pray and support a hurting or ashamed group member.

4. **Read Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:13.** God is the creator. God is the giver and taker of life. Today, there is a question of whose right it is to give and take life. How can we love people when we don’t all agree on the answer?

*Leader Note:* Suggestions include: serving at a crisis pregnancy care center, welcoming people at all stages of their journey, supporting children and their parents through sponsorship, welcoming and getting to know single mothers and young parents without question or judgement, helping lead a Care Group.