

## Engaging the Issues @Home

*Engaging the Issues @Home is a companion tool to our Engaging the Issues Podcast for families to use around the kitchen table to help start an engaging conversation about how their faith connects with the world around them.*

### **ENGAGING THE ISSUE: Holding the Abortion Industry Accountable**

Laws are meant to be obeyed. In fact, our country depends upon it. John Adams once remarked that ours is, "a government of laws, and not of men."

In other words, our founders rightly understood that mankind is fallible, fallen, and will seek only their personal best interests at the expense of others if left unchecked. To restrain that impulse, God has given government the power to pass and enforce laws.

Laws that regulate abortion place us in something of a quandary. On the one hand, the permission to deprive an innocent human life of its life is a permissive law that we who ascribe to a Biblical worldview simply cannot follow and must, peacefully, oppose.

On the other hand, while that permission exists, it creates an industry. Hard as it may be to consider, abortion is big business in the United States. Planned Parenthood's annual budget exceeds \$1 billion - \$300+ million of which is taxpayer dollars. This is big business - and it is *not* above the law.

Abby Johnson's story serves as a reminder that the work to end abortion requires the articulation of the moral dignity of innocent human life *and* the adherence to, and proper enforcement of, the rules that permit that industry to so exist.

### **ENGAGING QUESTIONS:**

1. **Why do we need laws?** *(God has said through the prophet Jeremiah, in Jeremiah 17:9, that, "the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure." This is a statement of great moral importance, but also reminds us why Paul tells us in Romans 13 that the job of government is to restrain evil.)*
2. **Why is it important that Planned Parenthood be held to account?** *(The 9th Commandment famously tells us, "Thou shall not lie." If Planned Parenthood is saying one thing and doing another with the money taxpayers invest in it, then they are lying and disobeying our laws and must be held to account.)*
3. **Are we any different from Planned Parenthood?** *(Parents: We like to think that we are morally superior to Planned Parenthood. This is a good time to talk as a family about how our hearts are just like it says in Jeremiah 17:9. Though we may not operate an abortion clinic or defraud taxpayers of money, unless God acts upon that heart to change it (Ez. 36:26), we are, "beyond cure.")*

**ENGAGING OUR HEARTS:** *Thank God that he has given us a government to restrain evil and ask that He will use government to hold the abortion industry accountable to the laws that govern this land.*

### **ENGAGING RESOURCES:**

- *Unplanned*, Abby Johnson, SaltRiver (January 1, 2011), [UnPlannedTheBook.com](http://UnPlannedTheBook.com).
- More about Abby Johnson at [AbbyJohnson.org](http://AbbyJohnson.org)
- More about Mike Norton and the Alliance Defense Fund at [AllianceDefenseFund.org](http://AllianceDefenseFund.org).