

# Old Testament Texts for Life Sunday

## Series A

### Epiphany 2:

**Text:** *Isaiah 49:1-6*

**Focus:** *We hear how the Bible speaks about the beginning of life. We hear especially about the beginning of the Savior' life and what it means for us.*

**Theme:** *There is Life before Birth*

#### I. *True for You*

- You had a very special beginning.
- God knew you even before you were born, chose you to be his own.
- God formed you carefully and lovingly in your mother's womb.
- God graciously gave you life; yet we were all conceived and born in sin.

#### II. *True for Christ*

- While in the womb, He was alive, as a person, with a name.
- God knew Him, even as He developed in his mother's womb.
- God chose him to be the Savior of the world.
- Christ's life means life for us.

#### III. *True for all people*

- All people have been given life specially and carefully by God.
- Even the tiniest little embryo, in a petri dish or in her mother's womb, is a tiny human person that is being formed by a loving God.
- God sent the Savior for all people – all are justified!
- Every person is valuable before God, regardless of their quality of life.

### Epiphany 8:

**Text:** *Isaiah 49:13-18*

**Focus:** *Mothers are probably one of the best examples of earthly love and nurturing that you can find. Yet the Lord's love surpasses even theirs. We marvel at the Lord's nurturing love and seek to imitate it in our dealings with others.*

**Theme:** *Marvel at the Lord's nurturing love*

- Motherly love often is a natural, instinctual thing. A mother simply loves her child.
- So it is unlikely that a mother would forget the baby at her breast, nor have compassion on the one she bore.
- Yet this very thing goes on all the time. Mothers decide not to even allow their children to enter the world; fathers and mothers conspire to abandon or murder their babies; some mothers are advised to allow their infants to die because of disabilities or deformities. In spite of their love, it is far from a perfect love.
- Even though this shocking thing may come to pass (and it has), the LORD will NEVER forget His children. He will never forget their names, their hurts,

their needs; the LORD's compassion will never run out; the LORD's memory will never fade.

- Contrast the LORD's memory with your memory: what does He remember and what do you remember? You remember the bad and shameful things you did; even more than that, you remember all the bad and shameful things *everyone else did*.
- We condemn the people on the news who commit terrible atrocities; meanwhile, we too often fail to see that our own sins, while perhaps not as open or coarse, are just as damnable.
- In some ways the LORD has a mercifully short memory; He has forgotten every one of our sins and shameful deeds. Yet he remembers us. He remembers His promises to forgive, save, and bless us.
- What an inspiration we have to share the LORD's undying love with those who need it in our world, those whom society rejects because of their poor choices and horrible crimes. The LORD has forgotten their sin just as He has forgotten ours. And His promises of love and compassion are for them, too.

### **Easter 6:**

**Text:** *Acts 17:22-31*

**Focus:** *This world is obsessed with "alternative worldviews," all of which reject the true God and His gracious rule over the world. Only God's view, revealed to us in Scripture, is the true way of seeing life.*

**Theme:** *Embrace God's worldview!*

- Life is not random, or controlled by fate, God did not create a contest to see who can be faster, smarter, and more skilled in order to make more money, get ahead, and die with more toys.
- Life is all under the plan of a sovereign, and especially, a loving God.
- The One True God has made all people specially, given them life, and placed them where He wants them in the world.
- The LORD is the One who gives life and breath; as such, He is the only One with authority to take that life back (the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment spells it out).
- He wants that all people come to faith in his Jesus Christ, who will judge the world on the Last Day.
- God did this for us: He ruled over his world, put us where He wanted us, and saw to it that we found Him in His Word. He has forgiven us, through His Son's death and resurrection; we are ready for the judgment, since the judge is none other than our dear Savior!
- God does this for others, too. He now uses us to reach others. He puts others near us so that we can speak to them about Him.

### **Holy Trinity:**

**Text:** *Genesis 1:1 – 2:3*

**Focus:** *In an age that rejects God, this text reminds us that God is the Creator and Giver of all life. Even more, the fact that humans are special in God's creation leads us to value all human life.*

**Theme:** *Praise Our Triune God for His Creation*

I. *He created all things perfectly*

- Our world rejects its Creator and instead bows at the altar of evolution. The devil's lies can be very persuasive. He tries to make evolution sound plausible and appealing: "God didn't really create all this." "We're all just a higher level of animal, perfected by millions of years of adaption and development." "There's no higher authority than our own intellect."
- But our text reminds us that our Triune God is the Creator of all things. It was the Father, the Son (John 1:3), and the Holy Spirit who fashioned this world, not chance.
- And God designed all things perfectly. He created a world to cradle and nurture life. And He made all of the living things to exist in harmony with each other.

II. *God created all things for man*

- Man occupied the place of honor in His creation. The Lord carefully crafted man out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into his nostrils. He lovingly made woman out the man's rib, so that she would be his perfect companion and helper. God made man in His image, perfect and holy, in complete harmony with God, with each other, with the world.
- God's perfect creation was ruined by sin. So God went into action to restore life to His fallen creatures. He sent the Son to save fallen man. True God, true man, perfect substitute for a world of sinners. Through His life, death, and resurrection, death is undone, the effects of the fall are reversed, and life is renewed for all (2 Ti. 1:10).
- Although God's human creatures have fallen, God still considers them special in His creation (Genesis 9:1-3). He still does not want ANYONE, no matter how young, how invisible, how old or infirm, how disabled or weak, how insignificant, how miserable in respect to "quality of life," to be robbed of the gift of life He gave them (Genesis 9:4-6).
- So we too, want to thank God for His love by valuing human life. Let us work to protect and preserve life whenever and wherever we can, as members of our church, as supporters or pro-life organizations, as citizens. Let us spread the word about our great and gracious Triune God, so that others may not only have life here on earth, but forever in heaven.

**Pentecost 16:**

**Text:** *Ezekiel 33:7-11*

**Focus:** *While pastors have a special call to serve as watchmen for God's people, all Christians have the God-given responsibility to sound the alarm on sin before it's too late.*

**Theme:** *Sound the Alarm!*

- Ezekiel is made a watchman, responsible for warning his fellow man about his sin. While pastors find specific application to their work here, finally, all Christians are given the responsibility to warn their neighbors about sin and its consequences.
- American society does present a whole array of sins. But at the root of all of them is selfish pride: *I* have the right, *I* deserve something. And we're fooling ourselves if we think we're not influenced by society – the same sinful pride is evident in Christians.
- Why is it so important to speak out? God warns Ezekiel that there is a double importance: not only should he be concerned about the eternal welfare of his fellow man, but he will be held accountable for him! If we remain silent, God will hold us accountable for those who are lost!
- We have failed to warn our neighbors about their sins; too many times we have “chickened out” or decided it wasn't worth causing a stir. Too many times we left a conversation with someone, and knowingly left them with the impression that their sins weren't really a problem.
- We have a powerful reason to speak out – not to save our own souls (God did that already!), not to prove that we're right and everyone else is wrong. Our most powerful reason to warn people about sin is to connect them with God's grace for every person in the world. He redeemed us; we go to share the message with others.