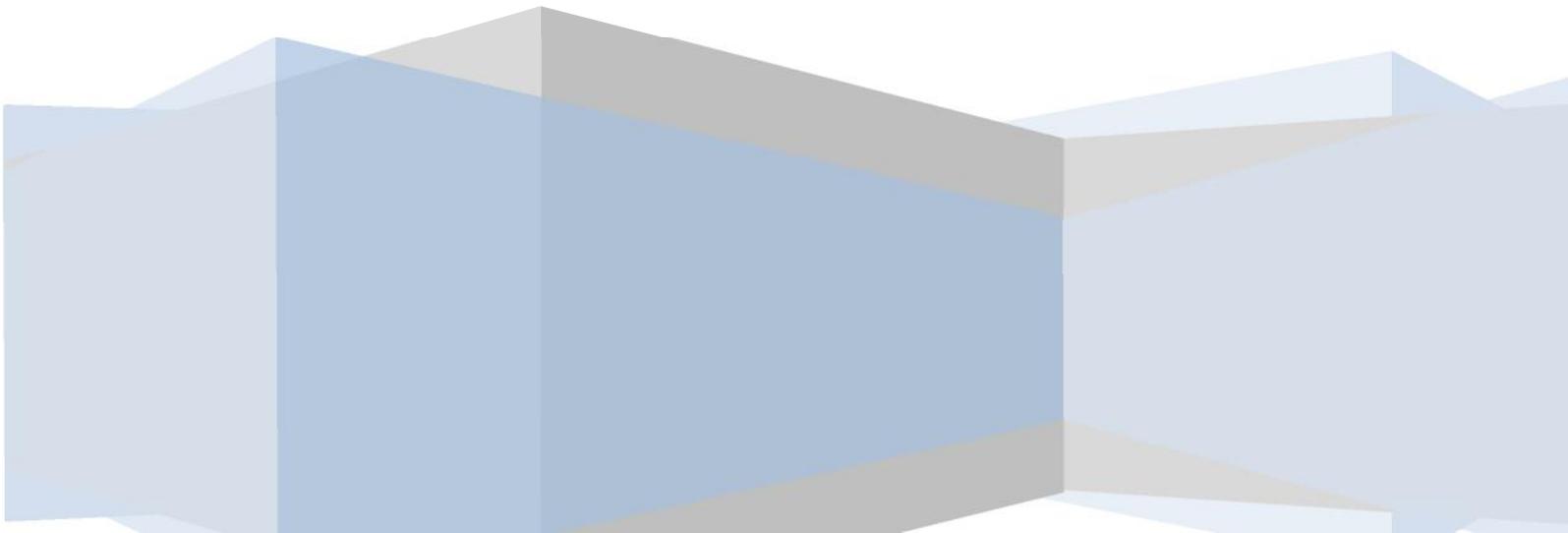




Lesson Plan: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

**For Christian schools and home schools in Canada
(Grades 10 – 12)**





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Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

[Note: This lesson plan is meant to accompany the DVD *Turning the Tide: Dignity, Compassion, and Euthanasia*. The DVD itself includes a discussion guide in the front cover.]

Length: One or two classes

Level: Grades 10 - 12

Applicable Courses: Social Studies, Worldview Studies, Sociology, Science

Current Political Context: Euthanasia is constantly before Canada's courts, Parliament, and Legislature. The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear a case that is challenging our laws on euthanasia, and the Quebec Legislature is pushing to legalize it. Go to www.ARPACanada.ca for the latest developments.

Overview: Throughout our lives we struggle with the brokenness that comes from sin. Many people have been given very difficult burdens resulting from poor health, old age, or abandonment. Some who struggle with these burdens feel that life is not worth living, or that their lives are too much of a burden on their families or society in general.

Political support for assisted suicide and euthanasia is growing (see the DVD discussion guide for definitions). Countries like Switzerland, Holland and Belgium have already legalized some forms of euthanasia and many others, including Canada, are considering it. A June 2007 poll conducted by Ipsos Reid found that 71% of Canadians were in favour of physician-assisted suicide. In 2008 a Private Members Bill was introduced that would have legalized physician assisted suicide in this country. Although this effort fell through without going to a vote, there will likely be another attempt soon.

The Bible is clear that we have intrinsic worth because of God's special relationship with us. Genesis 1 explains that He made us in His image which means that we reflect many of the attributes of God through our dominion over creation, our creativity, intellect, righteousness, and holiness (having been set apart from the rest of creation), to name but a few distinctions. In short, our dignity cannot be lost because of a disease which takes away our ability to make decisions for ourselves. Regardless of whether we are young or old, disabled or healthy, we must all be treated with dignity because we were all made by God. Even after the fall into sin and before the sixth commandment was given on Mount Sinai, God warned Noah, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man." A Biblical view of human dignity realizes that we do not possess dignity because of our own worthiness. Our depravity is evident in everything we do and would surely have removed any dignity that we possessed. But even after the fall into sin we still possess the image of God, as made clear in the text just quoted. We have dignity only because God continues to have a special relationship with

humanity. Christians should stand out from all others by reflecting who God really is to a world that is lost in darkness.

For more information, read [Euthanasia on the Horizon](#) and [Dying with Dignity](#) (French version also available) which can be found at www.ARPACanada.ca.

For Further Study:

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition: www.euthanasiaprevention.on.ca

Human Life Matters: <http://humanlifematters.blogspot.com/>

Procedure

- 1) Watch the documentary “Turning the Tide.” It is 28 minutes long.
- 2) On a chalk/white board, make two columns. Ask students to recollect reasons for and against assisted suicide and euthanasia, as presented in the documentary.
- 3) Have students read the following passages. For each of the texts, ask them to explain how they apply to the discussion:
 - a. Genesis 1:28
 - b. Genesis 9:6 (explain context)
 - c. Luke 10:25-37
 - d. Matthew 25:31-46
- 4) Try to get the students to understand that being against euthanasia and assisted suicide is not simply a political perspective. It is a way of life that values other people for who they are, regardless of their abilities. This applies to how they treat their peers as well.
- 5) Time permitting, use the discussion guide that accompanies the DVD. It may be a good idea to go back to some of the scenes of the documentary that the questions relate to.
- 6) **Optional Assignment:** Have the students make a poster that communicates that loving one’s neighbour means valuing them regardless of their abilities, health, or age.