

# Knockin' on Heaven's Door

9.8.20

Dr Sam Bloore

***Remember: you do not have to do the entire study (you may not have time) – you can choose what questions you want to discuss.***

1. What are your thoughts on euthanasia? How has this issue affected you?
2. What is the forthcoming referendum about? What do you know about the End of Life Choice Act? What would it allow?

Dr Bloore talked about the three main arguments offered in favour of euthanasia and discussed responses to these arguments:

## Autonomy/Choice

- We need to understand the nature and consequences of our CREATURELINESS.
- We also need to understand the nature and consequences of COMMUNITY.
- We are more connected than we think.
- Autonomy is a fluid concept.

## Dignity

- *Imago Dei*
- Christianity subverts our natural understandings of who is dignified and who is not...
- It takes time to adjust to a perceived "Loss of Dignity."
- Like Autonomy, Dignity not just an individual concept.

## Pain and suffering

- There have been huge advances in palliative care, even in the last 5-10 years.
- Suffering is SUBJECTIVE by definition.
- I need to acknowledge that this reason is the one I find hardest to "rebut"...
- Are Christians ready to put their money (and their time and their emotions) where their mouth is...and REALLY care for the dying?

Spend time discussing each of the three reasons in favour:

3. Why do segments of society see these three arguments as important?
4. Discuss how each of these arguments subvert the Christian understandings of:
  - Personhood
  - Creatureliness
  - Community
  - God's gifts to us
5. Which of the three arguments in favour do you find hardest to counter? Why?
6. Spend time discussing each of the responses to each of the three arguments in favour. Which response resonates most with you? Why?
7. What should a Christian response to pain, suffering and terminal illness include?

## Prayer points:

- Pray for the people and places of the world still heavily affected by Covid-19.
- Pray for the End of Life Choice referendum.