

Jacob Nels outside of the abortion clinic he has counseled outside of on a regular basis since 2012.



## We're Developing a Comprehensive Module on Sidewalk Counseling!

By Josh Brahm

When Tim and I first launched ERI three years ago, I knew that we would be creating the Equipped for Life Course and that it would cover both practical dialogue tips and pro-life apologetics. However I had no aspirations to train people in sidewalk counseling. While I have always believed that sidewalk counseling is an absolutely essential part of the pro-life movement, neither Tim nor I have enough experience doing it for us to train other people on how to do it.

When we hired Jacob Nels I knew that he had been sidewalk counseling at an abortion facility near his house every Friday for five years. I told him that I wanted him to keep doing that, even though it wasn't essential to his job description and I didn't have any reason to think it would ultimately be helpful to the mission of ERI in the sense of providing training materials.

Later as Tim and I started hearing more of Jacob's stories about his experiences on the sidewalk, we realized something: **he is doing R&D in front of the abortion facility just like we do on college campuses!** When he would describe the things he does and why, we realized that Jacob's years of testing different approaches on that sidewalk has resulted in him perfecting some very effective sidewalk counseling techniques, some of which are

unique to him and not taught in other sidewalk counseling training programs.

We have always intended to expand the Equipped for Life Course and we have decided that the best content to add first is a module with Jacob teaching the techniques that he uses and why.

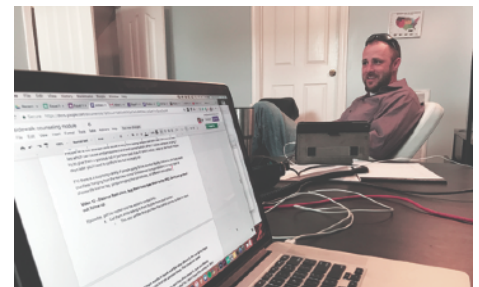
Jacob has been writing content for the module for months now, and we just spent several days with him fleshing out the content and organizing it.

The module will be around 15 videos, at least two hours of content, and it'll be incredibly comprehensive, including:

- How to think about your sidewalk counseling goals;
- How to choose between different abortion clinics for your ministry;
- How to prepare;
- How to find out the relevant laws in your state;
- What signs you should (and shouldn't) bring;
- How to make the most of your time if you are there to pray and hold a sign, and how to support counselors;
- How to constructively dialogue with sidewalk counselors who have different approaches;

- How to think about illegal practices like blocking clinics;
- How to start conversations in front of an abortion clinic;
- How to create the highest likelihood of talking someone out of having an abortion;
- How to develop relationships with people that work at the clinic;
- How to handle situations where someone calls the police;
- How to process failures;
- And much more!

We are so excited to see what will happen after thousands of people learn from Jacob's example.



Jacob Nels brainstorming content for the new sidewalk counseling module of the Equipped for Life Course with Josh and Tim at the ERI office last month.

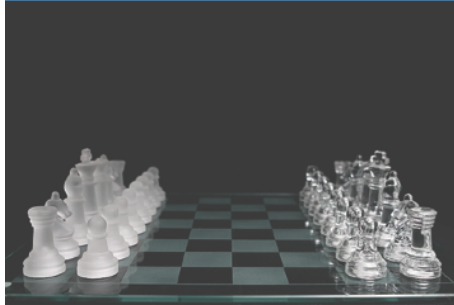
## Course Update



It's been a year now since the Equipped for Life Course came out. So far 533 people (including 42 groups!) have gone through it, and the feedback has consistently been incredibly positive. A full 100% of people who have taken our post course survey said they would recommend the course to a friend. Here are some of the comments we've received:

- > There is so much useful information, I intend to go through the material again.
- > Very practical, gives you a mindset rather than a script.
- > Very helpful in equipping those who may not feel confident in their ability to speak with pro-choice advocates successfully.

## Latest Article



### How to Turn the Tables on Four Pro-Choice Arguments

Forcing someone to argue against their own unfair arguments is the most efficient way to help someone to realize that their arguments are actually unfair.

In this piece Timothy Brahm shows how to turn the tables on four pro-choice arguments.

We are publishing blog posts every other Friday now. Check out the rest of this piece at [Blog.EqualRightsInstitute.com](http://Blog.EqualRightsInstitute.com)!

## Podcast Update



If you haven't subscribed to our public podcast yet on iTunes, you should! Here are some of our most downloaded episode titles:

- > Q&A Session with Rock for Life Activists
- > Summarizing the Strongest Evidence That PP is Selling, Not Donating
- > The Primary Things Jacob Says While Sidewalk Counseling
- > SPEECH: Why Every Teenager Should Be Equipped In Pro-Life Apologetics
- > Ben Shapiro's Response to Abortion in the Case of Rape
- > Listener Mail – Questions About Confirmation Bias
- > Will Smith's Indefensible Moral Relativism

## Personal Note to Josh's Friends and Supporters

My summer has been largely spent in the office assessing potential staff members, training a summer intern, improving the experience people have taking the Equipped For Life Course, and preparing speaking and webinar events for this fall and next spring. It's been hectic, but it's been nice to take a break from the crazy travel schedule that the spring was.

We've been able to spend a lot of precious time with my parents this summer. I'm so glad we moved within driving distance of them! They've been super generous in their willingness to come up and play with the kids and give Hannah and I more date night opportunities.

As you can see from the picture, Eli got glasses! He's always had a lazy eye, so the glasses should help retrain his eyes to focus correctly. We think he looks like an adorable real-life version of Chicken Little. And as you can also probably tell, he loves his "Bella." (What the kids call my mom.)



We've also had the chance to do some trips with the kids this summer. We took them to the new baseball park in Atlanta, (pictured top right) and the Georgia Aquarium, and we're about to all go to the Natural History Museum where William will get to see real dinosaur



bones, which should be amazing since dinosaurs are his favorite topic.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

~ Josh