

Jacob Nels sidewalk counsels outside his local abortion clinic every week. We can't wait to share what he has learned about sidewalk counseling in the last 5 years!



We're Extending the Equipped for Life Course This Year!

By Josh Brahm

When we first produced the Equipped for Life Course, we released about four hours of video lessons, but we always knew that we wanted to eventually extend the course. We're constantly learning new things as we think about the conversations we have with pro-choice people, so it only makes sense for the course to grow and change as we as pro-life advocates grow and change.

Tim and I decided to wait about two years before adding to the course, focusing in the meantime on increasing our writing, speaking, and adding people to our team. In the 19 months since publishing the Equipped for Life Course, we've increased our article output by 100%, we've increased our speaking engagements by 35%, and we went from having three full-time staff and one part-time staff to having five full-time staff, four part-time staff, and several active volunteers along with another 39 who just offered to help!

Now, almost exactly two years since filming the Equipped for Life Course, we've decided to extend it for the first time. Our team spent three full days last month in our annual planning meeting analyzing last year's goals and setting goals and action items for 2018

(and I've got to tell you, we have a phenomenal, insightful, creative team). We made several major decisions in that meeting about this extension to the course. We are adding **five major new components** to the Equipped for Life Course this year:

A SIDEWALK COUNSELING MODULE

As we announced last year, we will film approximately 15 practical lessons featuring ERI's Jacob Nels teaching the method of sidewalk counseling that he's perfected on the sidewalk outside his local abortion facility over the last four years. This module will feature several special guests who will contribute their expertise as well.

NINE NEW PRACTICAL DIALOGUE TIP LESSONS

ERI's Rachel Crawford and Timothy Brahm will double our practical dialogue tips module with the most important insights we've learned in the last two years about creating an atmosphere in a conversation where people are most likely to change their mind.

TWO NEW PHILOSOPHY LESSONS

Timothy is writing two new philosophy lessons to add to the Equal Rights Argument and Bodily Rights Argument modules. While these new lessons will be too advanced for brand new pro-life advocates, we think covering these subjects in more depth is crucial for more experienced students. We have talked with dozens and dozens of students at live events that are absolutely craving material that is designed to help them go deeper and respond to the most advanced pro-choice objections.

EXAMPLE DIALOGUE VIDEOS

We teach many different arguments and dialogue tips, and students often ask us, "How do I put all of those together in real time in a conversation? How do we transition from one argument to another? How do we decide which things to say when?" Last year, in order to help them overcome this common obstacle, we recorded several improvised example dialogues for the podcast. Now we want to go even further by making a series of example dialogue videos illustrating how to put all of the pieces together when responding to different kinds of pro-choice arguments and people.

MONTHLY LIVE STREAM Q&A SESSIONS

Once a month Tim, Rachel, and I will sit in our new video studio and take YOUR questions for 60-90 minutes in an "ask us anything" format. We will often invite pro-life leaders to join us, giving you a level of access to them that you may not usually have. Given that 30% of our Equipped for Life podcast episodes and another 16 blog articles have been based on responding to questions from our tribe, we expect these live streams to be very practical for pro-life people who are wanting to take their advocacy to the next level. **The live stream will be available to the public**, and the video and audio replays will be available in an archive on the Equipped for Life Course website.

New Staff Person!



Andrew Kaake holds a bachelor's degree in classics and political science, cum laude, from Amherst College, where he wrote a thesis on the topic of C.S. Lewis and natural law philosophy, and he completed his master's degree in bioethics at Trinity International University.

After he raises his personal support he will primarily be writing articles and assisting the Philosophy Team at ERI.

ERI Speaking Events



Apr 7: Portland, OR (Rachel)

Apr 9: Kutztown, PA (Rachel)

Apr 14: Baton Rouge, LA (Timothy)

Apr 19-23: Denmark (Josh)

May 20: Clovis, CA (Josh)

Sep 6: Miami, OH (Josh)

Personal Note to Josh's Friends and Supporters

I just got back from Canada where I did nine events plus a meeting with the Bishop in four days! We've been posting pictures and stories from the events on our Facebook page. I also took the chance to go to Niagara Falls before coming home, and it's easily in the top three most beautiful places I've ever been! (Only topped by the Grand Canyon and Yosemite.) I also recorded an ERI Update video there, so if you want a fuller picture of what's been going on behind the scenes, check it out on our YouTube channel.

I'm also really excited that after a lengthy search I've now hired a full-time assistant, Jen Westmoreland. I'm literally writing this personal note on her first day, and she has already taken on the duty of bringing more order to this office. She will be taking a lot of administrative tasks off of my plate, which will allow me to spend far more of my time writing and other things that only I can do at ERI.

Another thing that is taking a lot of my attention right now is learning how to use the cameras and equipment we've purchased to extend the Equipped for Life Course as well as set up the monthly live stream Q&A sessions. Thanks to Matt Dula, our extraordinary volunteer, and lots of YouTube videos, I'm

quickly learning basic videography, lighting, and the live stream software we'll be using.

On a more personal note, we've welcomed yet another member of the Brahm family, a white kitten named Finn. Everybody loves him, including the dogs. Finn sleeps in Noah's room, who absolutely adores him.

Many of you have been asking about my Dad, who some of you know was diagnosed with cancer (Mantle Cell Lymphoma) three years ago. Unfortunately Dad's second remission has ended after only six months since the last round of treatment. That's not great news given that typically every remission gets shorter. Please pray for our extended family, especially for my parents Rich and Lisa as they work with doctors to decide his course of treatment. Dad has just been accepted into a clinical trial that actually looks more promising than anything he's tried yet. We covet your prayers.

Thank you so much for caring for us, and your financial support if you're one of our generous partners.

~ Josh

