

Title – Like a Girl: Surviving China’s Gendercide

Program of Study – Foreign Languages: Chinese

Presentation Type – **Choose one of the following:** PowerPoint

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Category – **Choose one of the following:** Creative/Artistic

China’s rapidly growing population has long been at the forefront of the Chinese government’s mind, which is why the One-Child policy was implemented in the late 1970’s. This policy stated that couples were allowed to have no more than one child in order to curb the country’s population growth and avoid further damage to the already depleted natural resources. This policy however, has not only failed to prevent a surplus population, but has caused greater problems. One of the more dire problems that has been caused by the One-Child policy is the prejudice towards females in Chinese society. With the implementation of the One-Child policy families became desperate to have a male child because a male child would not only ensure that the family name would be carried on, but would also be crucial for helping provide income for the family; this is especially true for rural families. Having a female child only meant trouble for families because typically girls could not be as productive in the work field as boys. Also, girls would not be able to carry on the family name because the daughter would take the name of her husband, and would be expected to help care for her husband’s parents—her parents would be left to take care of themselves in old age. That is why an alarming number of Chinese society still have patriarchal ideas—they do not value females and as a result often abort their children when the gender is revealed. My creative presentation—in the form of poetry from a young Chinese women’s perspective—will give insight into the damage this mindset causes not only on females, but on a society as a whole.

Genesis 1:27 says that “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” This verse does not say that only man was created in His image, but man and female. As a Christian, I understand that every life is a gift from God, and therefore no person should be valued less simply because of their gender. God has created male and female with talents and strengths that are unique to their particular gender; He has also ordained them with certain responsibilities. Relaying the struggles of a Chinese women through poetry is one of the most effective ways to convey the crisis China faces because of the personal nature of poetry; typically poetry is seen as a more intimate form of self-expression in which a person can relay their innermost thoughts and beliefs. Living in a society that does not value a person other than as a mother—and even then mothers are not valued unless they have a son—is not only emotionally damaging, but spiritually damaging as well. If a person does not see their worth in society, they will not believe that they have worth in the eyes of God either. Using such an intimate means of communication as poetry will allow others to truly see life through the lens of a Chinese woman. They will be able to see her hurts, fears, and day-to-day struggle of trying to survive in a society that does not even believe she deserves to live.