

Life is Precious from the First Moment of Conception

A Lesson on Loving and Respecting all Human Life

Grades 4-6



Goal:

Introduce the idea of respect for all life beginning at the moment of conception and why it is so important to support women who are expecting children.

Materials:

Videos from website

How Big Is Your Baby website (optional materials—bring in some produce examples of the different baby sizes so students can hold them and see just how big/small they really are. Or—if your school has access to a set of fetal development models, bring those into the classroom for the children to see and hold)

Or, print pages 10-11 of the Valuing Life Tool Kit for preborn baby size comparisons.

Print pages 13-14 of the Valuing Life Tool Kit—enough for one set for each student

Print pages 16-17 of the Valuing Life Tool Kit—enough for one set for each student

Lesson:

This lesson deals with the beauty and wonder of development of human life prior to birth. It hints at the fact that not all babies are allowed to be born, but there is no need to mention “abortion” at this grade level unless it comes up in the conversation from the students or the teacher determines that the students are ready to talk about it.

Each and every person is created by God out of love, from the very first, tiny moment of their lives before they are born. Even though authors of the Bible didn’t have microscopes or ultrasound machines, they knew that God had plans for even preborn babies.

Activity:

Have students work in pairs to match the scripture verse with the lesson it teaches about life before birth from pages 13-14 of the Valuing Life Tool Kit.

Introduce the topic of fetal development. When a baby is born, he or she is already 9 months old and has been doing amazing things—even if we haven’t been able to see them.

Watch: One of the Miracle of Life videos (either with or without the “conception” part!)

Discussion:

What did you learn?

What surprised you the most about human development before birth?

Was any of it gross?

Was any of it beautiful?

Have any of you ever felt an unborn baby kicking or seen an ultrasound image? Now you know what the baby was doing on the inside while you were observing from the outside!

Activity: Look at the pictures and read the descriptions on "How big is your baby" of several different stages of fetal development. What is taking place at each time? Talk about how quickly the baby is growing and developing. If there are either produce or fetal models, let the children hold them to really understand how small the baby is when his/her heart starts beating or when fingers/toes develop. Ask them to share stories of newborn babies they have seen in their families and what they noticed about their abilities.

Watch:

Some or all of the lighthearted videos about people happy to have their babies. "Coca-Cola commercial", "From Bump to Buzz", or "Wife's Enchanted Pregnancy".

Discussion:

Is having a baby easy?

Is every woman who gets pregnant really happy about it? Why or why not?

What might make someone unhappy about being pregnant?

Just because someone is not happy at one time, does that mean she will stay unhappy?

Watch:

Some or all of the videos about situations where pregnancies might not be so happy. "Dear Future Mom" or "French girl Chooses Life".

Discussion:

What did you think about these situations?

Are there times when a woman might not be as happy to be pregnant?

What can we do to help her become happy instead?

Watch: "Be a Voice"

Discussion:

What does this mean for us?

What can we do to help people be happy about welcoming a new person into the world?

What can we do to create a world where everyone is welcomed as a gift from God, no matter whether they have disabilities, are poor, or come at an inconvenient time?

Activity:

Provide each student with photocopies of pages 16-17 of the Valuing Life Tool Kit—preferably photocopied in color. Make sure they have colored pencils, markers or crayons to draw with. Ask them to fill in each frame with a picture of some person who has greatly influenced their life. It may be a family member, a friend, or even a public figure they admire. This is meant to be a thoughtful project—do not encourage pet pictures or fictional characters.

Once students have finished the project, ask them to share with the class one or two people they have chosen and why. Then ask if they can predict what their lives might be like now had that person not been allowed to be born. How many people are influenced/affected by any one single person? What does this tell us about the value of each individual in God's plan for the world?

Homework (optional): Read the article on prenatal surgery. What does this tell us about unborn people? Would a doctor operate on a person if he or she were not important? What would you tell a mom and dad who learned that their unborn baby had a bad disease or condition?

Prayer:

**God our Father, you created each person perfect, a gift from you to the world.
Help us to see perfection, even when our eyes see problems or inconvenience.
Help us to treat each person as a gift and share our lives as a gift to the world for you.
Amen.**

