

Tennessee Right to Life
SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
Kindergarten -Week 1
GOD’S GIFT OF LIFE

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

This lesson will begin laying a foundation of respect for life, and an appreciation for God as the Giver of Life. All our activities will emphasize these important concepts. You will help your students recognize God’s awesome handiwork through the use of beautiful fetal models. They will learn that their lives began even before their births, that God knew them even then, and He had a purpose for them from the beginning. This is a great departure from the ideas of those who do not respect the sanctity of life, and who believe that life before birth is simply a group of cells which has no significance to the world and deserves no protection from us.

Sadly, we have come to a place in our culture where even many of those in the Church have lost their grasp of the great sanctity of life. Abortion rates are just as high among Christians as among those who do not attend church; therefore, the Christian community must rediscover the great spiritual truths about human life, and the role of suffering in life.

Furthermore, we must be reminded of God’s commandment to stand up for the Truth and for the “innocent who are being led to death.” This lesson begins that process by teaching the value of life at all stages. Let these young children see your awe at this amazing gift of life, and the great love God shows us through it. Help them to see your appreciation of them as unique, unrepeatable gifts of God. Let God lead you to light the fire of truth in their young lives.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:13-16

Memory verse: *“Before I formed you in your mother’s womb, I knew you.”* Jeremiah 1:5
 (International Children’s Bible)

LESSON GOALS:

- To help your students begin to recognize that life is a gift from God
- To show them that their lives began before birth
- To help them understand that God knew them before they were born
- To help them recognize their own unique qualities and the unique qualities of others

THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP STUDENTS:

- Understand that God has given them the gift of Life and knew them even before they were born.
- Realize that their lives began before they were born.
- Recognize not only their special gifts, but also the unique gifts of their classmates.
- Give thanks to God for the gift of Life.

VISUALS/SPECIAL PREPARATIONS:

- Watch Me Grow Brochure or fetal models borrowed from Tennessee Right to Life. Review the development of the child before birth, which is included in the lesson Part B.
- Your phone or other camera to take close-up pictures of each family member

TAKE HOME MATERIALS

- *Our Memories* Worksheet

TEACHING THE LESSON**A. Introduction**

Today we are going to be talking about God's gifts to us. Would someone like to tell me one of the gifts they received from God? (*Let the children share their ideas for a moment or two, and then emphasize.*) One of the biggest gifts God gives us is the gift of life! What do you think it means to be alive? (*Again, give the children time to share their ideas, and emphasize how wonderful it is to be alive, to see and hear and taste and touch all that God has made for us.*) Let us take a moment to thank God for all these wonderful gifts:

Father, we want to thank you for this precious gift of life that you have given to each one of us. Help us to take good care of this special gift. Amen

B. Class Discussion**1. Life before birth**

Did you know that you were alive even before you were born? And did you know that God knew you even before you were born? The Bible tells us that once there was a little boy named Jeremiah, who grew up to be a great and powerful prophet of God. Here is what God told Jeremiah: "*Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work.*" That is such a beautiful verse; let's make that our memory verse for this week. Can you say it after me? "*Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you.*" Please work on that with your parents at home this week.

God knew each one of us before we were born. King David knew that too. He even wrote a special Psalm to tell us about that. Psalm 139:13-16: "*You made my whole being. You formed me in my mother's womb. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way...You saw my body as it was formed.*" How does it make you feel to know that God was watching over you even before you were born? (*Let them share.*)

2. Stages of life before birth

Doctors have studied babies before they are born and they know a lot about what these tiny people can do even before they are born. They have ways to see inside the womb of the mother to see the baby so they know what you looked like before you were born. (*Use the Watch Me Grow brochure and go over each picture and stage of development.*)

You can use the information below if you are using the fetal models on loan from the Tennessee Right to Life office. You can also download links to videos and adapt using the video links provided.

The first model represents a human embryo at 4 weeks: You were called an embryo when you were this age. You were only 4 weeks old. See how very tiny you were; but already your heart had been beating since you were 18 days old, and your brain was beginning to work.

The second model represents a human embryo at 6 weeks: This is what you looked like at six weeks. Now you were still called an embryo. You were only one inch long and weighed only one gram, but you could make a fist, get hiccups; you were already trying to suck your thumb!

The third model represents a human fetus at 10 weeks: Here you are at 10 weeks. Now you were called a fetus, which means “little one”. At this age you weighed a whole ounce and were 2 inches long. You were very active and could kick your little feet! Your little toes, and fingers, and fingerprints are the same toes and fingers and fingerprints that you have today, but they are much bigger now.

The fourth model represents a fetus at 14 weeks: This is what you looked like when you were a 14 week old fetus. That’s almost four months old. You were 5 to 8 inches long and weighed about half a pound. You could swim and turn somersaults. Your mom could even feel you kicking.

The fifth model represents a fetus at 18 weeks: Here is what you looked like at 18 weeks. You could punch and kick and suck your thumb. You could hear your mother’s voice, but you could also hear sounds even adults wouldn’t be able to hear. You weighed a whole pound and were almost 9 inches long. You were only halfway to the time when you would be ready to be born. You would be 38 weeks old by then and you would be about 20 inches long and weigh about seven pounds.

(Now you can take a few minutes and let the children hold the removable models. Let them see your awe at the amazing gift of life before birth.)

Video Links:

[WebMD First Trimester Video](#)

[9 Months in the Womb](#)

[Your Life Before Birth](#)

C. Class Activity

Everyone is Special

Right now, I am going to take your picture and we will take pictures of everyone in our family. We are going to hang them up to remind us how special each of us is. As we take the picture, we will be talk about the things which make each person special. We will remember what God told us about saying only good things that build up others. We won’t say things like, “she has a funny nose,” or “his eyes look funny.” We will say only kind things like, “She has beautiful red hair” or “he has a great smile” or “she is very kind.”

(Now as you take a picture of each family member, have the other family members tell something special about that person.)

D. Closing

1. Summary

We have talked about so many important things today; let's remember what they were:

- We have talked about God's gifts to us, especially the gift of Life.
- We have learned that we were alive long before we were born, and God knew us then.
- We have practiced our memory verse: **"Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you."**
- We have looked at pictures/models of what we all looked like before we were born, while we were growing inside our mommies.
- And we have learned about all the wonderful things we could do, even when we were very, very tiny, before we were born.

2. Take Home Assignment

This week, at home, you are going to do a special project with your parents about what they remember about you before you were born. And you will also continue to work on your memory verse.

3. Prayer

God loves us so much, and He has done such wonderful things for us, so let's close now with a special prayer of thanksgiving: *(Allow the children an opportunity to offer spontaneous prayers of thanks for whatever gifts they know God has given them.)*

Dear God, we thank You for all your gifts to us especially the gift of life. Thank You for watching over us even before we were born. Help us to be kind to all the people You have made. Amen

Do the worksheet with your child.