

Tennessee Right to Life
SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
GRADE 2 –WEEK 1
GOD PREPARES US

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

God knows us. He has known us from the beginning of time. He loves each of us and has a plan for each life. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and it is only through knowing, loving, and serving the Lord that we can discern His plan for our lives. This lesson continues to foster in the children the knowledge that each person is precious and worthy of our respect. The poster that says “I’m special, because God doesn’t make mistakes” should really say “Each and every person is special because God doesn’t make mistakes.” No matter what a person can or cannot do, he/she has a unique purpose that cannot be fulfilled by anyone else.

Throughout the next few years, this curriculum will work to create a true understanding of and respect for the sanctity of human life. The second grade students, with your help, will begin to appreciate the preciousness of each human life and how each person has a unique purpose that no one else can accomplish. Jeremiah 1:5 helps the children to understand how we were known to God even before we were in our mother’s womb. The fetal models are wonderful tools for helping the children see how they grew inside their mothers. With these models, they are able to visualize the humanity of the unborn child. It will be necessary to spend some time before class familiarizing yourself with Appendix A concerning the use of the fetal models.

Nurturing this respect for every human life will be the beginning of combating the Culture of Death that promotes abortion, infanticide and euthanasia as viable options. The pro-choice advocates try to convince us that abortion removes a few cells, a “mass of tissue,” or a “potential person.” The truth is that abortion destroys a unique human being that has never been before and will never be again—not a potential person but a person with great potential. This 2nd grade curriculum will help the children to realize this truth, without even mentioning the word “abortion.”

SCRIPTURE:

I John 5:3a

Psalm 139:13-14

Memory verse — *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2:10.

LESSON GOALS:

- To emphasize that each person’s ultimate goal is to know, love and serve God
- To impress on the students that each person has a unique purpose in God’s plan
- To explore the lives of Moses and Mary and their specific purposes in God’s plan
- To familiarize students with life before birth through the use of the fetal models

THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:

- Understand that God has always known us, even before we were born.
- Discover that God has a unique plan for each person.
- See that only they can carry out the plan God has for them.
- Recognize the humanity of the unborn child.

VISUALS / SPECIAL PREPARATIONS:

- Fetal Models set up as the children enter (see Appendix A)
- Memory verse written on the board
- Felt board and figures for Moses and Mary stories, if available

TAKE HOME MATERIALS:

- *God Prepares Us* Worksheet
- *My Family Tree* Worksheet
- *8 Week Baby File*

TEACHING THE LESSON**A. Introduction**

Prayer—Start with a prayer thanking God for the gift of Life and for making so many different kinds of people. Ask Him to help us to love and respect everyone because they are made in His image.

B. Class Discussion

Let's begin our class today thinking about what God wants us to do while we are living here on earth. What are some of the things you think He wants us to do? (*Give time to respond.*) The most important things He wants us to do are to know, love and serve Him.

1. What God Wants:

a. Learning to know Him is what you do here in Sunday School class and at home when you study your Bible and talk about God. We learn about God through His awesome creation, when we listen to our pastor, and also when we pray. We must know about Who God is before we can love Him. If I didn't know "_____" (*Pick a child in the class.*) here then it would be hard for me to love Him. So we are to keep learning about God throughout our whole lives.

b. To love God. That means we are to praise Him, and to put Him before everything else in our lives. What are some ways that we can love God. (*Give time to respond.*) To love God also means we are supposed to obey Him and obey His commandments. The Bible tells us in I John 5:3a, "*This is love for God: to obey His commandments . . .*" God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. He loves us so much that He gave us LIFE-here on earth and in Heaven. When you understand how much God loves you, it becomes easier to love Him.

c. To serve Him. We do this by praying, doing the things that the Bible tells us, and by caring for one another. God wants everybody to know, love and serve Him so that one day we can be happy with Him in Heaven.

2. God's Plan

God knows each of you in this room. He knows every person in the whole world, because He created each one of us. And He loves each of us! And because He loves us, He has a plan for each of us--a special plan. God has a plan that is just for you. If you love, serve and obey God, you will be able to be where He wants you to be, say what He wants you to say and do what He wants you to do in order to carry out His plan in your lives. If you are not obeying God, you might not be able to carry out the special things He has planned for you.

How do we know God's plan for us?

Do you know exactly what God has planned for you next year? Do you know what God has planned for you next week at school or at home? We don't even know what God has planned for us tomorrow. (*Ask the children what they have planned to do after church or after class. Give them some time to understand that we all **make plans.***) Most of you have plans after this class, but while you are doing those activities, God wants you to continue to know, love and serve Him. So if today you go home and you're playing with your brother and he wants to play with your toys, then God wants you to serve Him by sharing. While you are playing, your parents may ask you to help them, and God wants you to love Him by obeying your parents.

God doesn't usually write down His plan for us or show it to us on a video. So how are we supposed to know God's plan for us? Well, every minute of every day we are supposed to be doing the things that please God, because that is the plan He has for us on that day. For example, if you are a fast runner, you know that this is a gift from God and you should use it to serve Him. One day your friend may fall down and get hurt and you can use your fast legs to run to help her. That is following God's plan for you at that moment. Everything you do, every choice you make is a chance to know, love and serve God and follow His plan. So you may not **know** exactly what God has planned for you when you grow up or next year or even tomorrow; but you know that you should try to do the right thing all the time; that is how you follow God's plan.

Do you think that God is just now making up His plan for you today? Do you think that God's special plan for you just started last week? No! Let's say our memory verse together: "*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*" Ephesians 2:10. This Scripture tells us that God made each of you, created you for a certain reason, to do certain things. It also tells us that He prepares you so that you will be able to do these things. He prepares you for His plan.

3. Bible Stories

There are many stories in the Bible that tell us about people who loved, obeyed and served God and followed His plan for them. Today, we're going to talk about two of those people. *(If a felt board and pieces are available, you may want to use them to help illustrate these stories.)*

Moses - Do you remember what happened to Moses when he was just a baby? The Pharaoh of Egypt ordered all Hebrew male children to be killed at the time of their birth. In order to save Moses from being killed by Pharaoh, his mother had to put him in a basket and put it in the river to save his life. As he floated along the Nile River, the daughter of Pharaoh found baby Moses and rescued him. The Pharaoh's daughter knew Moses was a Hebrew baby, but she decided to raise Moses as her own son. Moses grew up in the royal family, not knowing he was Hebrew. Moses saw how badly the Hebrew slaves were treated by Pharaoh. He began to feel compassion for them, and eventually found out He was a Hebrew. When Moses met his real mother, she taught him about God, and he chose to serve God throughout the rest of his life. God used Moses to convince the Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves go free. Moses then taught the people about God, delivered the Ten Commandments to them and led them to the Promised Land. (Exodus 2) That was the special plan God had for Moses and his people. There were many other people besides Moses whom God could have sent to see the Pharaoh, but no one else could have done what Moses did in the way that Moses did it, because God had **prepared** him to do it.

Mary, the mother of Jesus - We know about Mary and how the angel came to her and asked her to be the mother of Jesus. Mary did not know that God had this very special plan for her, because she was so surprised by the angel's visit. But Mary knew God and she loved Him. Being the mother of Jesus was her way of serving God. She was following God's plan for her life, and no one else could have done what she did in the way that she did it, because God had **prepared** her especially for it.

Moses and Mary loved and served Him. They obeyed God and so they were able to carry out His plans for them. Just think what would have happened if Moses had not obeyed God and gone to see Pharaoh. And what if Mary had refused to follow God's plan to have Jesus? No one could have done the things that they did in the way that they did them. God will use you, too, if you are willing to know Him, love Him and serve Him. And as you learned in the Scripture verse, Ephesians 2:10, He has given you special talents and certain qualities about you that will help you to carry out His plan—He has prepared you and continues to prepare you; just follow Him.

(If time allows, talk about different talents, abilities or characteristics that the students possess, so they can realize that these are gifts from God that He wants them to use in His service.) No one else can do the things that God has in store for you in exactly the way that you can. So, you can see how important you are and how important it is that you are trying to follow God's special plan.

C. Class Activity

1. Fetal Models

(If possible, gather the children around the fetal models and allow them to touch and hold them.)

Let's read Jeremiah 1:5a--*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart . . ."* *(You may want to explain to the children that the "womb" is the name for the special place they grew while inside their moms.)*

God knew Jeremiah before He created him, and God had a plan for him even then. He knew Mary and Moses before they were even born, too. That is the same for all of us. God knew you before you were born—while you were growing inside your mom.

(Direct their attention to the models.) Before you were born, this is what you looked like. You all started out this small and grew inside your mom. You are still growing today. Even when you were this small, God knew you, and He had a plan for you. God's plan for us during the nine months when we are growing inside our mothers is truly AWESOME. Remember that God always prepares you; He gave you this time inside your mother to prepare you for the day you would be born.

Everyone starts out as a single cell, no bigger than the tip of a pencil. You were a tiny cell that was already a boy or a girl. Everything that you are today, and everything that you ever will be, was in the single cell that you were—whether you would have brown, blue or green eyes, whether you would have straight or curly hair, and whether you would have big or small feet. All you needed was time to grow. You haven't stopped growing yet; you still need more time.

(First Model) When you were just 4 weeks old and less than half an inch long, your heart started to beat. Everyone feel your heart. Your heart has been beating since you were a tiny baby inside your mom, long before you were born. At 4 weeks, your eyes and ears started to form.

(Second Model) While you were growing, you were doing some neat things. When you were this size (around 6-8 weeks) you were able to suck your thumb and turn little flips inside your mom. Your arms and legs started to move. You also got the hiccups. You were asleep sometimes and awake sometimes. You grew a lot while you were in your mommy.

(Third Model) By the time you were 12 weeks old, you had grown a lot; you were over 2 inches long! You had fingers and toes. You could feel pain and you could frown and make a tiny fist.

(Fourth Model) I want you all to look at your fingerprints. By the time you were 16 weeks old you had those same fingerprints that are different than anybody else's prints. Isn't it amazing that God could come up with so many different fingerprints for so many different people? You had fingernails and toenails. You even had your taste buds on your tongue.

2. Psalm 139

(Read Psalm 139:13-14--"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...") God does wonderful work. Only an AWESOME God could have come up with this wonderful plan for how we grow inside our moms. It is truly amazing that the arms that you have and the fingers, hair and toes that you have—all that you are started as a tiny single cell no bigger than the tip of a pencil. While you were in your mom, two legs didn't float down and attach to you nor did two eyes come from somewhere else and pop into your head. No, they were there from the time you were only a cell, just waiting for the right time to grow.

(Spend time letting them ask questions about the models, and then have the students help put the fetal models away.)

D. Closing**1. Summary**

Let's take a minute to remind ourselves of all the things we learned today:

- We learned that God wants us to know Him, love Him and serve Him.
- We learned that God has a special plan for every person, and that only that person can carry out his or her special plan.
- We learned that God made us and knew us before we were born.
- We learned about some of the neat things that we could do while we were growing inside our mommies.
- We learned Ephesians 2:10. Let's say it once more. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

2. Take Home Assignment

We have seen today how God has made each of you for a purpose. God uses and will use some of you in big ways and others in small ways. Some people become presidents, some people are moms and dads, some people can run really fast or sing really well while others can't walk or talk at all. But no matter what a person can or cannot do, God still has a plan for them. I want you to take this worksheet home and work on it with your parents. We will bring it back next week and go over them. On the sheet there is a family tree. I want you to fill in the names of your family members along with one special thing that person is or does for you or for others. For example, on this line fill in what you call your grandmother, and underneath you might write, "She is a doctor." Or "She always takes me to the park." Or "She visits sick people." Or "She had five children." Write anything that you think is part of God's plan for that person.

3. Closing Prayer

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for Life and for the way God made each of us. Ask that we may always try to know, love and serve Him, and that we may seek to know His plan for us.

Remember to pass out the Take Home Packets.