

Tennessee Right to Life
 SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
 GRADE 3 - WEEK 1
FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE AT EVERY STAGE

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

Note: Please spend some time before you teach this lesson reading Appendix B on how to use the Continuum of Life banner.

Life begins at fertilization. This is a scientific fact. When you were a newly conceived person, you began as one tiny cell. You did not “come from” a single cell. **No, you were that single cell.** That single cell contained all that you are and all that you will be. Within that cell was whether you would have blue, brown, or green eyes, whether you would have straight or curly hair, or whether you would be bald at forty.

As a newly formed human being, the single cell starts to divide quickly. Organs start to form, the heart starts to beat and brainwaves begin. During our lives, we may be labeled in many different ways: embryo, fetus, newborn, toddler, preschooler, teenager, adult, senior citizen. However, we will always be the same person we were at conception.

This is one of the most basic concepts in forming a pro-life conscience based on God's word. We will introduce this concept in this third grade year and will continue to build on it throughout the other grades. Students (and adults) need to understand that once a human being is created, that person is unique and special no matter what label is attached to them or what limitations they experience. This is the beginning of an ultimate understanding of the real tragedy of abortion—a unique human being (one that has never been before and will never be again) is destroyed.

At the third grade level you will simply try to emphasize a **continuum of life**—from beginning to end, a person is the same person in all the different stages of life.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 139:13-15
 Jeremiah 1:5

Memory verse: “Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” Psalm 127:3 (NASB)

The following scriptures are written as simplified stories to read to the class. Scripture references are for teacher's use:

Luke 1:41-42	John the Baptist as a fetus
I Samuel 1:21-24	Samuel as a toddler
I Samuel 17:42-49	David as a teenager
Luke 2:10-13	Jesus as a newborn
Genesis 18:9-11	Abraham and Sarah as seniors
Luke 10:25-37	The Good Samaritan as an adult

LESSON GOALS:

- To introduce the concept that life is a continuum
 - To explain the various stages of life using the appropriate names
 - To explore the various capabilities during various stages of Life
 - To show how God uses people in these various stages of Life
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THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:

- To understand that once a life has started, it is the same life, the same person, even though there are many stages of that life.
 - To realize there are different names for people at different stages of life.
 - To discover the capabilities of people in all stages of life.
 - To see how they can help others in all stages of life.
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VISUALS / SPECIAL PREPARATIONS:

- *Continuum of Life* banner and Appendix B
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TAKE HOME MATERIALS

- *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* worksheet
 - *Miracle of Life Video*
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TEACHING THE LESSON

A. Introduction

(Have the Continuum of Life prominently displayed at the front of the room.)

(If possible, have the memory verse, Psalm 127:3, written on the board.)

Thank you, Father, for the gift of life. We praise You that in Your wisdom You have made each of us unique and special. Please help us to love others and treat them as special no matter what age they are or what problems they might have. Help us during this class time to understand how every person whether young or old is loved by You. Help us to glorify You in all that we discuss and learn today. Amen.

B. Class Discussion

Did you know that each one of you is a gift from God? In Psalm 127:3, it says, *“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward.”* (NASB) This Scripture tells us that ALL children are a gift from the Lord. When it says, "fruit of the womb," it means babies growing inside their mothers. The womb is the place where unborn babies live and grow for about nine months before they are born. The "fruit" is the baby that is growing inside the mother. This is our memory verse for today, so let's say that together. *(Practice verse.)* So being alive is a gift from God!! What do you think is the most wonderful part of being alive? *(Give them a chance to share and if possible write some of their responses on the board.)* At different times of our lives we

think different things are wonderful. For example, as an adult, I think one of the most wonderful things about being alive is *(Add in your own wonderful thing.)*

C. Class Activity

1. Continuum of Life

Take a moment to look at the pictures on the banner. What do you think these pictures are about? *(After a few responses, use Appendix B to explain each picture briefly.)*

(Read Psalm 139:13-15 and also Jeremiah 1:5.) Each person is special to God. Each of you is special to God. There never has been a person like you, and there never will be again. There have been billions of people since the beginning of time but none of them has been exactly like you. People may say that you remind them of another person or that you look like your brother or sister, but there is really no one exactly like you.

God loves us from the very beginning of our lives *(Point to single cell.)* and He loves us throughout our lives—at every stage. He can use us at any stage of life to do His will. He can use us as tiny babies inside our mommies and He can use us as third graders and even as old people.

2. Bible Stories

In the Bible, we can see how God has used people in these different stages of life. I am going to read a story that comes from the Bible, and I want you to tell me which of these stages of life the person is in. *(If you have pictures of any of these stories you might find it useful to use them. Also, you may want to have children stand under or behind the banner at the stage of life the character is in the story.)*

- **Abraham and Sarah in their old age** *(Genesis 18:9-14)* Abraham loved God very much and wanted to obey Him. God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of a nation, but Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were getting old and they didn't have any children. When God told Abraham that Sarah was finally going to have a baby, she just laughed because she thought she was too old. But God said, "Is anything too wonderful for Yahweh?" *What stage of life were Abraham and Sarah in? (Senior)*

- **David and Goliath** *(I Samuel 17:33 and 17:41-4)* Remember that Goliath was a giant? He made fun of the Israelite army and even though the Israelite army had God on their side, they were still afraid of Goliath. Then came David, a young man who knew that God is stronger than any giant. He told King Saul that he wanted to fight Goliath. At first, Saul said no because he thought that David is too young. But finally David convinced the king to let him fight with only his slingshot and a few stones. David asked God for help and then challenged the giant to a fight. Goliath laughed because he also thought that David was too young. But we all know who won! David defeated the giant Goliath. *What stage of life was David in? (Teenager)*

- **Christ came as a baby** *(Luke 2:10-13)* Once there was a very special baby born in Bethlehem. It was Jesus, the Savior of the World. After Jesus was born, an angel appeared to some shepherds and told them that the Savior had been born. The angel said, "Today in the city of David, a savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." *What stage of life was Jesus in? (Newborn)*

- **John the Baptist in the womb** (*Luke 1:41-42*) Before Jesus was even born, He was proclaiming the Glory of God. When Jesus was still growing inside of His mother, Mary, she went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. John the Baptist was still growing inside of his mother, Elizabeth. The Bible says that as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's voice that the baby inside of her (John the Baptist) leaped in her womb, and that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth said to Mary, "*Blessed is the fruit of your womb.*" So Jesus was helping people even before he was born. *What stages of life were Jesus and John the Baptist in? (Embryo and fetus)*

- **The Good Samaritan** (*Luke 10:25-37*) Jesus told a story to show us how we are supposed to love our neighbor. He told about the Good Samaritan. A man was beaten up by robbers and left by the side of the road, because they thought he was dead. Some people came by and saw the man on the road, but they just walked on by. Then a Samaritan man came by. Although he didn't know the injured man, the Good Samaritan stopped to help him. The Samaritan took the man to a place to rest and get well. *What stage of life was the Good Samaritan in? (Adult)*

- **Samuel being called by God** (*I Samuel 3:1-11*) Samuel's mother took him to live in the Temple of God when he was just a little boy. Samuel lived at the temple with Eli. One night God called Samuel into His service even while he was very young. *What stage of life was Samuel in? (Toddler or young child)*

As we can see by these Bible stories, God uses people in all stages of life. We are never too young or too old to do God's will.

C. Closing

1. Summary

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

- We learned in our memory verse that children are a gift from God.
- We talked about being alive, and the different things that we thought were special about being alive.
- We looked at the banner with the different stages of life and the different names we call people.
- We talked about how every person starts out their life as a single cell and
- continues to grow throughout the different stages.
- We learned just how unique you are. There never has been and never will be another you.
- We talked about how God uses people at different stages of life.

2. Take Home Assignment

God can use you as third graders to bring about good things in the world just as He used those people we just read about. Today we have talked about the things people are able to do at different stages of life, but next week we will talk about some of the things that people in each of these stages **cannot** do. All people need help, some more than others. This week I want you to look around for ways to help others. I want you to really pay attention to the needs of others and try to respond to those needs without being asked. For example, being aware that Mom has her hands full and opening the door for her without being asked, or helping your little brother or sister tie their shoes, etc.

Also, there is a worksheet to do with your parents. It lists all the phases of life that you have already been through. You are to ask your parents to tell you what they remember about you at these different stages of life—when you were just a little embryo or unborn baby, when you were a newborn baby, and a toddler. Remember what we read earlier from the Bible that you were a gift from God, and I'm sure your mom and dad will agree!!

On this worksheet, I also ask your parents to help you make some index cards with names of family members in the different stages of life. Please help do this and bring them back next week.

3. Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for making each one of us special. During this week, help us to see the uniqueness of every person. Help us to treat them each as the gift that they are. May we do this in order to give You honor and glory. Amen

Remember to pass out the Take Home packets.