

Tennessee Right to Life
SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
Grade 7 - Week 1
THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

Many people in America don't realize that abortion is legal in this country for all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason, or for no reason at all. Most do not know the violent methods that are used in an abortion procedure. Even when they hear the truth, many are reluctant to believe it. A diagram similar to that used during Congressional hearings is included in your binder to verify the reality of abortion's brutality.

To the average American, abortion basically means not being pregnant any more. The pro-abortion movement likes it that way, because if people knew the truth then they would be horrified and forced into action to stop the killing of over one million babies each year in the United States. We can no longer be deceived by the language of abortion. We must "***know the truth and the truth will set us free.***"

In this Seventh Grade lesson, you will unmask the words and phrases that were used and continue to be used to make abortion a harmless, benign word. You will present some of the most common slogans relating to abortion and help the students refute them from what they already know—biologically, logically and spiritually.

By helping them to form these pro-life arguments and say them aloud, the students will come to understand them more fully and use them when needed outside of the classroom. Your students are at the age, or will soon be at the age, when they will know people who have had abortions, or are seeking solutions to a crisis pregnancy. They desperately need the truths contained in this lesson.

Trying to combat abortion and the "culture of death" often comes down to a war of words. Your work with the students in this lesson will help to equip them with the truthful words they need to unmask abortion for what it truly is - **an act of violence that kills a baby and hurts a mother.**

Building a "culture of life" means learning to use a language of life and love. It is interesting to look at our own everyday language and see how we can improve it to communicate the TRUTH. For example, a pregnant woman is not "going to be a mother," she already is one. Also, when we say of a long awaited delivery, that the baby is "not here yet" that's not completely correct either, because certainly the child already exists, although we long to be able to see and hold him or her. To call someone who is in a coma or otherwise incapacitated, a "vegetable," only serves to dehumanize a person who needs an extra amount of attention, care and compassion. One final example is in the case of a miscarriage. Do we convey to the mother of a lost child a sense of sympathy and loss or one of "I guess that was best"?

Words are powerful tools. It is important that we use our words carefully in order to build a culture of life where everyone - young, old, sick, healthy, born or unborn - is treated with care and respect.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 139:13

Exodus 4:11

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Jeremiah 1:5

Memory verse: *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 8:32

LESSON GOALS:

- To equip students with the truth about prenatal life
 - To explain in general terms what abortion is and does
 - To define abortion as an act of violence that kills a baby
 - To introduce some of the most common pro-abortion slogans
 - To give the students an opportunity to refute these slogans
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THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:

- Understand that abortion kills a human being.
 - Discover that abortion is a violent act, not a benign word.
 - Expose the lies of some of the most common pro-abortion slogans.
 - Verbalize pro-life truths when faced with pro-abortion lies.
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VISUALS / SPECIAL PREPARATIONS:

- *Continuum of Life*
 - Fetal Models
 - Photo of fetal surgery and letter from Michael Clancy
 - Slogans written on board (if possible)
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TAKE HOME MATERIALS

- *Language of Illusion* Brochure
- *The Truth Will Set You Free* Worksheet

TEACHING THE LESSON

A. Introduction

1. Prayer

(Open with prayer asking God to show us the truth about human life and abortion, so that we might be set free from the evil.)

2. Review

As Christians we are in constant pursuit of TRUTH. God is the ultimate truth, therefore, we spend our life studying God’s truths in Scripture and learning more about Him and His precepts. God created the entire universe, and we can see His perfect plan everyday in the world around us. We can learn more about His order of the universe in scientific discovery. God also gives us a heart for truth. We seek the truth in so many ways and ponder them in our own hearts and minds. This enables us to make decisions and draw conclusions because of the wisdom God has given us—call it common sense, intuition, good judgment, or discernment.

B. Class Discussion

1. Fetal models (Appendix A)

The Bible and science reveal to us that the unborn child is a unique human being that never has been before and never will be again. In Psalm 139:13 it says that we were knit together in our mother’s womb, and Jeremiah 1:5 says that God knew us before He formed us in the womb. Medical technology such as ultrasound has made it possible to actually see the unborn child with its heart, eyes, ears, arms, legs, fingers and toes.

Most babies grow inside their mothers for about nine months before they are born. During this time, God has a wonderful plan for how a baby grows and prepares for its life outside the womb. *(Direct the students' attention to the fetal models. Use Appendix A to briefly give them some highlights of fetal development. Point out that this is how we all started out in our moms. Make sure that they understand that although they were very small, they were still the same person as they are now--they've just grown!)*

2. Abortion

Now, I want to talk to you about a word that many of you have heard before - abortion. What does the word abortion mean to you? *(Give students a chance to respond.)* Abortion is the deliberate taking of a life while it is inside the mother. We are going to spend some time talking about the TRUTH of what abortion is. It is important that we know the truth about this issue, so we will not be deceived.

How do you think abortions are done? *(Let the students share their perceptions, so that you will have some idea of what they know.)* There are many methods used to perform abortions and kill the child that is growing inside a mother. But for our discussion today, it is sufficient to say that basically there are two categories of abortion: those that are done **chemically** with drugs that kill the baby by suffocation, starvation or by inducing premature labor, and those that are done **surgically** so that they baby’s body is actually attacked physically so as to kill it. When “chemical” methods are used in older fetuses, sometimes the baby survives the actual abortion, is “delivered”, and

is then left to die. Remember - at 10 weeks, the baby is sensitive to touch and feels pain. We can see that **abortion is an act of violence that kills a baby and hurts a mother.** (*Write this definition on the board.*)

3. The Deception

Many people, once they know the truth about what abortion is, wonder how we can allow this to go on in our country and around the world. They wonder how our society can allow over a million abortions to be done each year in America. They wonder how violently killing a fetus in the womb could ever be legal.

As we look around, we start to realize that animals can't be treated the way we allow unborn babies to be treated. For example, there are laws in many states that make it illegal to torture an animal and leave it to die. Science tells us that the unborn child suffers pain during an abortion, yet no laws protect that child from such torture. You cannot legally disturb an eagle's nest. You can be prosecuted under federal law for destroying an eagle's egg, but human beings can be killed, at any point while still in their mother's womb. They even advertise abortion in the newspaper and in the phone book. In America, abortionists are paid a lot of money for killing unborn babies.

In our search for TRUTH, we hear these things and our hearts cry out "Why?" We wonder how abortion could be legal and acceptable. Well, one reason is that the American public has been deceived by "words" that have no true meaning. When many people hear the word abortion, it's just a word. They think it simply means "not being pregnant anymore," but as we have seen, the word abortion is much more than that--**abortion is an act of violence that kills a baby and hurts a mother.**

(Much of the information in this week's lesson comes from a book entitled Who Broke the Baby? by Jean Staker Garton. You may borrow this book and many others from Tennessee Right to Life.)

If we never get beyond the language of abortion, then we will never get to the truth. (*Read John 8:32.*) *"And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."* (*If time permits, have the class repeat this a few times as their memory verse.*) Therefore we must learn the truth about abortion, and we must spread this truth so that our culture can be set free—set free from the violence of abortion.

C. Class Activity

In today's lesson we will look at some of the more infamous lies and slogans that Satan has used to make abortion "acceptable" to people. We have been told that abortion is a freedom (freedom to choose) and a right (right to choose). The people who want abortion to be legal and "normal" have used these phrases so often that people in America believe them. Sometimes, Christians even believe these slogans and use them when confronted with a life and death argument. Studies have shown that of women who get abortions, a majority of them say they are Christians. Satan has deceived some of God's own people. It has been said that if you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it. That is certainly true of these pro-abortion slogans.

As we talk about these slogans, I want you to take the things that you know to shine the light of truth on the lies. Use what you know about life before birth - that human life starts as a single cell and simply continues throughout life. We are the same human being throughout our lives; we are just called by different terms - single cell, embryo, fetus, newborn baby, toddler, etc. Now that you know generally the methods

used to destroy babies in the womb, use this information, your own common sense, and the spiritual truths that you know, as we discuss the language of abortion. (*Refer to slogans written on the board.*)

1. **“Every woman has the right to control her own body.”** What do you think about this statement and, as a pro-life Christian, how can you refute this pro-abortion slogan? (*Give the students an opportunity to answer, then use the following information to supplement their answers.*)

- **“her own body”** (*Call the students' attention back to the fetal models.*) The unborn baby is not a part of the mother’s body. In pregnancy there are two bodies, the truth is actually that the woman is “with child.” Medical science confirms that the unborn child, the embryo or fetus, is a human being living within another human being. The pre-born human being is able to cry, hiccup, and dream. It has a heartbeat, brain waves (and is therefore able to feel pain), fingers, fingerprints, toes, etc. An unborn baby can have a completely different blood type than the mother. Common sense tells us that these are separate human beings—how can a mother who is going to have a little boy be both male and female? Does a pregnant mother have two brains and two hearts? Of course not, she has her life which is separate from the child she is carrying. This slogan should say: **“her own body; the child’s own body”**.

- **“every woman”** – Female babies who are aborted have no control over their bodies and whether or not they will be killed. So they should change the slogan to say that ***only some women have the right to control their body.***

- **“has the right”**- Legally no one has an absolute right or control over his/her body. For example, the law says that we don’t have the right to drink and then drive. You cannot take your body and walk out in a busy intersection and lie down. It is illegal to take drugs, and did you know that it is illegal to commit suicide? So we do not have complete control over our bodies. As Christians we also look to I Corinthians 6:19-20. It says, *“Do you not realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, and whom you received from God? You are not your own property, then: you have been bought at a price.”* **We do not have the right to do that which is wrong.**

2. **“Every child should be a wanted child”** - On the surface this slogan sounds pretty good, doesn’t it? What do you think about it? (*Give students an opportunity to respond.*) This slogan, when examined carefully says that the value and worth of one human being’s life depends on the wants and desires of another. We know that each life is valuable because we are made in the image of God. The Declaration of Independence tells us that we are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights—the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Human beings are supposed to have certain rights because of who we are. But this slogan says that you only have certain rights if someone wants you. With this phrase, human beings are put on the same level as things. We have pitted the life of a human being against the wants and desires of another. In this slogan, the unborn child’s life only has worth or value if someone else says it is wanted.

- There are many “unwanted” born people in the world. If we applied this phrase to them just think what would happen. Some people would kill the homeless, the unloved, abused children, sick people, minorities, and the handicapped simply because they thought they were not wanted.
- Being wanted says nothing about the child, yet says everything about those making the decision. For example, on the same day, two pregnant mothers whose unborn babies are the same age, come into a hospital.

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- One is there for an abortion
- One is there because she is going into premature labor.

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- The first mother does not want her child
- The second desperately wants hers.

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- In the abortion room, the one woman is told that what is growing inside her is a “blob of tissue,” and that they will soon be “terminating her pregnancy.”
- In the labor and delivery room, the other woman is assured that everything possible is being done to save her unborn baby.

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- The mother of the unwanted child is injected with a powerful salt solution which will kill the baby by suffocation. When they believe the child has died, labor is induced, and a dead baby is delivered,
- Meanwhile, in the labor room, although the baby is born prematurely, every effort is being made to save her life. She is wrapped in a blanket and cared for by the hospital staff and her mother. Children as young as 19 weeks have survived being born prematurely.

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Now tell me, what was the difference between those two fetuses? (*Allow responses and then summarize.*) One was a wanted child and the other was not. In effect, the slogan should read: **“Every child a wanted child and if not, kill it.”**

It’s important to note here that sometimes the attempt to abort the baby with the salt solution fails; the baby is then born, barely alive, and left to die. Recently, laws have been passed that require medical staff to care for the babies who survive an abortion and are born alive. These laws, however, can be difficult to enforce.

3. “Abortions should be legal in cases of abnormalities.”

What if a child is going to be born with handicaps that will make “normal” life impossible? What about abortion then? (*Let the students respond.*) In a book entitled *Who Broke the Baby?* Ms. Jean Garton gives an interesting view. She tells that there is a tribe in Africa that treats its infants born with grave deformities as baby hippos. The members of the tribe view these births as accidents that have happened to humans. By dehumanizing the babies, they then feel free to gently place the baby in the river where hippos belong. We may think this is crazy and that we would never do something like that, but we do.

In our culture, tests are done while a woman is pregnant to find out if her baby has a handicap or a deformity. When a deformity is discovered, the doctors will often tell the parents that the baby will never be able to do the things that “normal” people can do; sometimes they will say that the child will be “a vegetable.” This dehumanizes the baby, thus making it easier to abort that child. Isn’t this just what that African tribe does?

This kind of thinking comes from the fact that some people believe that a person’s right to life should **not** depend on **who** they are, but instead on **what they can do**. If a baby will not grow up to do all the things that “normal” people can do, then they believe that child’s life is not worth living, and they conclude that an abortion is the most compassionate response. In their minds compassion equals killing!

This is not God’s way! As Christians we are to accept the crippled, the lame, the blind. Scripture says, “*Who made the man’s mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?*” (Exodus 4:11) We know that God is the Giver of Life, and we know that when He gives life, He intends for it to be protected and cherished, always; in fact, those who need our care because they cannot do all the “normal things” are the very people God often uses to help us become more like Jesus.

These are just a few of the slogans that have been used to promote abortion in our society by dehumanizing the little baby in the womb. The sad thing is that many in our society have accepted them - they have accepted the lies instead of searching for the TRUTH. The good news however is there are pro-life groups that are trying to combat these lies and spread the truth about the beauty and dignity of all human life. These groups (Tennessee Right to Life, Hope Resource Center, Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Charities and many more) are saving lives and changing hearts and minds. We must pray for those who are doing this important work and join them in their efforts.

There are doctors too, who use their skills not to take life, but to save lives of unborn babies. These doctors also do tests to find problems, but they do them so they can help the babies. They have even developed ways to treat babies still in the womb. There are more and more cases where doctors are operating on pre-born babies, and then allowing them to continue to grow inside their mothers’ wombs until birth.

(Show the class the picture of the surgery on the unborn baby, Samuel on the website.)

This amazing photograph shows an unborn child, little Samuel, being operated on before birth. The photographer, Michael Clancy, wrote a letter about this experience which I would like to read. *(read Michael Clancy Card.)* As you can see this is definitely a human being who is alive. The unborn child who has medical problems should be treated as a patient; doctors should be trying to help babies in the womb; not kill them. The surgery little Samuel received was very successful. He is doing well and has very few problems.

D. Closing

1. Summary

This lesson has been all about truth:

- The truth about slogans used to desensitize people to what abortion really means
- The truth about unborn life, and the preciousness of each life created by God
- The truth about those who say some lives are not worth saving
- The truth that compassion must never equal killing
- The truth that abortion is an act of violence that kills a baby and wounds a mother.

2. Take Home Assignment

Our Scripture memory verse reminds us that the truth will set us free. Now that you know so much truth about this life and death issue, you can use it to help set people free of the lies they may believe about abortion and the unborn child. Here is a card about Baby Samuel you can share with others to help them understand the truth about life before birth. For your homework this week, you will refute some more pro-abortion slogans. This will be completed with your parents, so they too will understand the deception and the lies that have been promoted for many years. Also, this will give you an opportunity to teach your parents what you learned in today in class. Remember that the truth will make us free, so put some real thought and effort into what your words mean. Words are very powerful and as you have seen today, words can kill, but the **right** words can change minds and hearts for LIFE.

3. Closing Prayer

End with a prayer for TRUTH and LIFE.

Remember to pass out the Take Home Packets