

Tennessee Right to Life
SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
Grade 8 – Week 1
THE TRUTH REVEALED

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

Many in the abortion industry have believed a lie, thinking that a greater good is accomplished through abortion than by allowing a baby to be born. Certainly, there are hardships for the woman who regrets that she is pregnant, but with the help of those who care and have compassion, she can work through her problems, and choose life for her baby. The effects of abortion are much more devastating: a dead child and a wounded mother. The goal of the Sanctity of Life Curriculum is to affirm how God values life and loves the people He created and redeemed. By teaching God’s principles concerning life and exposing the evil of abortion, you will help your students recognize these truths.

In Grade 6 of this curriculum, students are taught that abortion is destroying a unique, unrepeatable life and that Christians are called upon by God to protect life. The concept of spiritual warfare is introduced by challenging young people to put on the Armor of God and make a commitment to pray for an end to abortion. In Grade 7, the popular language and slogans that present abortion as good, necessary, and normal are examined and exposed as lies. More importantly, ways to refute these deceptive philosophies with God’s truth are studied along with how abortion became legal.

The focus of Grade 8 is the truth about what abortion is. In much the same way that the atrocities of the Nazi Holocaust were exposed and revealed as a great evil in history, this lesson exposes the evil of abortion. This is today’s holocaust. Three thousand, three hundred (3,300) abortions are performed in our country each day. The evidence of lives lost demands a look at the truth.

This may be a difficult lesson for you and your students, but do not be fearful. Pray for God’s wisdom and grace to present this difficult truth in a powerful way. This lesson is intended to provide accurate information to counteract the misinformation, half truths, and lies your students are already hearing from a culture of death. By simply telling the truth about abortion in a factual way, much of its evil is exposed. To help confirm these truths, each student will be asked to write a letter to the editor or a letter to inform an individual about what they have learned.

Our memory verse from Hosea reminds us that God’s people are "destroyed for lack of knowledge." You have been placed in this unique situation to provide powerful knowledge about abortion to your students. In a very practical way, teaching the truth about abortion will protect our young people from falling prey to the destruction of Satan’s lies.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 139:13-15

Jeremiah 1:5

Matthew 10:30

Memory Verse: *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”* Hosea 4:6a.

LESSON GOALS:

- To affirm that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God
- To inspire students to commit themselves to prayer and speaking the truth in love, always

THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENT:

- Understand the destruction that results from the “lack of knowledge” concerning God’s truth about unborn life and abortion.
- Grow stronger in God’s truth and the truth about abortion, so that they can share that knowledge with others.
- Develop a lifestyle of commitment to end abortion.

VISUALS/SPECIAL PREPARATION:

- Abortion Methods Chart (with headings written on board if possible, but descriptions read by teacher)
- Fetal Models
- *Methods of Abortion* cards
- Memory verse written on the board

TAKE HOME MATERIALS:

- *The Truth Revealed* worksheet
- Sample letter

TEACHING THE LESSON

A. Introduction**Opening Prayer**

Today we will spend some time talking about the amazing gift of life God has given us. It is a cause for much joy, but we will also discuss something that is a cause for great grief: abortion, the intentional killing of an unborn child. This is a difficult thing to hear, but with God’s grace the knowledge we gain will help bring an end to this destruction. Let’s pray:

Dear Father, Thank You for the gift of life and for the amazing ways of Your creation. Open our hearts to Your truth about life and prepare us to receive the difficult truths that we will learn today about the evil of abortion. We pray for those who are involved with abortion; please reveal your truth to them and change their hearts. Amen

B. Class Discussion

1. Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Let's begin our lesson by reading Hosea 4:6a. Let's say it together. God wants you to know the truth, so you will not be overcome and destroyed. You will be able to stand firm, because you know the truth about what abortion does to the unborn. These truths will help you overcome the world's deceit and lies.

The first truths we will examine today are the amazing facts about the unborn child found in Psalm 139:13-15. (*Read the passage.*) This Scripture teaches that God loved you, even before you were born. Knowing someone before they are born doesn't seem real, because you can't see the person. Your parents anticipated knowing you, and they began to love you before you were born, but God knew you and loved you before you were **born**. In Jeremiah 1:5, we read, "*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.*"

Psalm 139 tells you the truth about yourself and every unborn child, that you are fearfully and wonderfully made, an amazing creation of God made in His image. We are to reverence human beings who are made in His image. Author C.S. Lewis said it best in his book, *The Weight of Glory*, "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal." We are more than mortal, because we share in His Divine image – God has given us a spiritual dimension like Himself. Every person He has created holds a sacred place in His creation.

In our reverence for life, we acknowledge God as our maker and model. Of all His creative wonders, people are the only ones made in His image with His spiritual nature; thus, we have the most special place in His creation. Young or old, weak or strong, respect should be given to every life, born and unborn. This is what is meant when we speak of the "sanctity of human life."

The words "wonderfully made" speak of God's miraculous power and genius to create man and woman. The mystery and miracle of being made in His image gives testimony to how great a creator God is. The miracle involves the composite of every part working together to make us a unique, one of a kind individual. God knows the details about you physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He designed you in such a way that no one else is exactly like you or ever will be exactly like you. Matthew 10:30 says that "*He knows the number of hairs on your head.*" That's awesome!

Even your fingerprints are unique. (eye scans too) Our national security system and the banking industry use fingerprints to identify a particular individual. And think about how you can recognize people by their voices. When a friend calls on the telephone, you can recognize them immediately simply by the unique sound of their voice. These are just a few examples of all the amazing characteristics that were "knitted together" by God before we were born.

2. Fetal Development

Although the unborn baby is hidden from our eyes for nine months, God has given us a window, through the Scriptures, and now through ultrasound technology, into this special place where He has crafted each of us. Doctors have studied the behavior and characteristics of the unborn. It is crucial that we learn these truths, too, so we can educate others. At the moment of conception, a unique and specific DNA exists which identifies a new human life. At eighteen days, the baby's heart begins to beat; by forty-two days, our current technology can detect brain waves. After just ten weeks, every major organ and body system is present. This is important knowledge that gives you a fresh appreciation of how wonderful God is and how wonderfully He has created us. It is powerful knowledge that you can share with others to save lives.

3. The Truth about Abortion

Another important truth that needs to be revealed is the truth about what abortion really is. Many do not know that abortions can be done during all nine months of pregnancy; many believe that an abortion consists of taking a “pill” that simply dissolves a “a blob of tissue.” Using the abortion methods chart and the NRLC website, we will learn today that abortion is truly “an act of violence that kills a baby and wounds a mother.” Our memory verse from Hosea, “*My people perish for lack of knowledge,*” speaks of another time, when the children of Israel were dying because they did not know God’s Word. But the same is true today; babies perish, and women are hurt for lack of knowledge.

The knowledge you will gain in this lesson about how abortions are done and what it does to human lives, will empower you to oppose abortion privately and publicly. As a matter of fact, we pray that when you hear the truth about abortion, you will want to help mothers and their unborn children. At the end of this lesson, we will discuss ways in which we can be involved in the effort to bring an end to abortion.

C. Class Activity

1. The Chart and the NRLC Website

As you review this information, I would like you to make notes of the different methods and the stage of development at which they are used. We will use this information after review.

2. Fetal Models

Now I would like you to join me around the fetal models. Here are some cards. Each one has the name of one of the abortion procedures that we just learned about.

a. Pass out the cards to several students, then have each one come up, read the name of the procedure on the card, then place the card in front of the model which represents the age at which that procedure is most commonly done. Encourage the other students to help.

b. You will find that the cards will have procedures which are done at ages beyond 18 weeks- the last fetal model in your set. In that event, simply have the student place the card to the right of the last model.)

c. For your information the correct ages for the various methods are listed below:

RU 486.....5-9 weeks.....6 week model
Suction.....first trimester.....10 week model
D & C.....13-14 weeks.....14 week model
Saline.....beyond 18 weeks.....18 week model
Pitocin.....second trimester.....18 week model
Prostaglandin.....second trimester.....18 week model
D & E..... second & third trimester.....18 week model
D & X (Partial Birth abortion).....third trimester.....right of last model

D. Conclusion

1. Summary

Today you have acquired some powerful knowledge.

- We have been reminded how “fearfully and wonderfully” we all are made.
- We have seen that abortion is truly an act of violence that kills a baby and wounds

a mother.

- You know that there are many lives being lost everyday for lack of knowledge.
- This knowledge can help us save lives in many ways:
 1. This knowledge should prompt you to praise God and to pray that you will be open to how He can use you.
 2. Then you can watch prayerfully for the opportunities He will provide.
 3. When those opportunities come along, you can be faithful to share the knowledge you have with compassion and respect.
 4. One of the opportunities that is always available to you is through the editorial pages of our newspapers. Those pages are read by thousands of people everyday. This week, you will have an opportunity to take the knowledge you have gained today, and share it by writing a brief letter to the editor. You have no idea how many people will be touched by the truth you share and the love with which you share it, but you can be assured that God will make certain that it does.

2. Take Home Assignment

In your Take Home Packet, you will find all the information that you need to write a letter explaining the truths you have learned about abortion; you will also find a brochure containing information on where a woman can get pro-life help. Take time this week to write a short letter. This is real work that you can do which has the potential to save many lives. Do not be afraid to try; ask the Holy Spirit to help you. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

3. Closing Prayer

Remember to pass out the Take Home Packets.