

Tennessee Right To Life
SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
Grade 8 - Week 2
KNOW THE TRUTH

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

In this lesson, you have an opportunity to encourage your students to seek God for what He desires. We have the responsibility to teach them that every individual is important enough to God for Him to send His Son to die for them. The worth of the individual is paramount to God. We are precious in His sight. God gives children to mothers and fathers to be “the gift of life”, but millions of these beautiful “gifts” have been thrown away.

God’s heart must ache for the way His people are allowing the unborn baby (His gift) to be treated and destroyed through abortion. The aborted baby’s life and God’s plan for her **has** been cut short in an untimely death; this child will not experience a parent’s love and care that God desired and planned.

You will be able to encourage them in this battle by reading a true story of a girl who survived an abortion. Pray that this miraculous story will inspire your students to trust God and become committed to help end the tragedy of abortion.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 139: 13-15 Matthew 5:13-14 Deuteronomy 11:26-28; 30:19

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

LESSON GOALS:

- To encourage students in their prayer and action, using the stories of those who have survived abortion and by giving them a chance to share their letters
 - To remind students of the significance of individual decisions, beginning with the decision of Adam
 - To help them understand how terrifying a pregnancy can seem to a vulnerable young woman, and how quick and easy a solution abortion can appear to be
 - To show them how seductive the lies can sound which lead to death
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THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENT:

- Recognize and refute the lies being told about abortion.
 - Grow in empathy for the unborn child.
 - Commit to a lifestyle of work and prayer to end abortion.
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VISUALS/SPECIAL PREPARATION:

- Fetal Models
- A Dictionary
- Envelopes for students to address to their newspaper editors. If there will be several letters going to the same editor, you may want to mail two of them every two weeks, taking time to watch for the letters and any responses they may elicit. This is a good way to keep the topic alive for much of the school year. Be

- available to any students who wish to respond to letters their first letter elicited.
- Address for local Letter to the Editor (please provide mail and e-mail addresses)
 - Appendices A, F, G, and I (from last week for reference should students have additional questions)
 - Heidi Story (see Appendix O)
 - Other stories about Abortion Survivors (located at the end of this lesson)

TAKE HOME MATERIALS:

- *Know the Truth* worksheet
- *What Can I Do?* brochure

TEACHING THE LESSON

A. Introduction

1. Opening Prayer

(Pray for the class and the lesson today. Ask God to increase our understanding of abortion, its consequences, and our role in praying for its end.)

2. Review

Last week you were asked to draft a letter to the editor using the knowledge you gained, would anyone like to share their letter with us? *(Read as many letters as possible for about 10-15 minutes, and then let the students address their envelopes. Or you may use the time to compose a class letter if no one is prepared.)*

B. Class Discussion

1. God's way

(Assign students to read Deuteronomy 11:26-28 and 30:19) These verses help to remind us that as individuals we have a choice to listen and obey God or turn away and disobey. Curse and death will come if we do not listen to God, but to choose God's way instead of man's way will result in life and blessing.

God shows us the truth of this verse over and over throughout Scripture, beginning in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, who believed the lies and chose a way which led to death. What were the lies they believed? *(Allow them time to respond; be sure to include: You won't die; you will have more wisdom by being like God.)* Why do you suppose they believed those lies? *(Allow a brief response; be sure to include: They sounded reasonable and good; the tree and fruit looked good and was pleasing to the eye; they believed God was withholding good things (wisdom) from them; they desired to be like God.)*

Thousands of years have passed, yet God's truth still stands, and man is still seduced by lies into choosing death. This is especially true when it comes to abortion.

2. Abortion Defined

Abortion is presented as reasonable and good, just as the forbidden fruit in the Garden. To emphasize this I'd like us to take a moment and simply read the definition of abortion from the dictionary. *(Have someone read these from the dictionary. The entries will probably be similar to the ones here.)* As you listen to these, see if you hear the deception:

1. The removal of an embryo or fetus from the uterus in order to end a pregnancy.
2. Any or various procedures for terminating a pregnancy.
3. An immature and nonviable fetus.
4. Malformed or monstrous person or thing.
5. The stopping of an embryo or an organ at a more or less early stage.
6. The stopping of an illness, infection, etc. at a very early stage.
7. Anything that fails to develop, progress, or mature.

These definitions lead you to believe that abortion is simple - it just removes something; it is needed to remove the illness or infection; it is good to remove this thing, which might even be “monstrous;” nobody will get hurt - the word *baby* is not used; abortion just ends a pregnancy; no mention of pain or death- just terminates a pregnancy.

Did you know that Planned Parenthood is the number one provider of abortions in this country today? So let’s see how they define abortion. On their website we find, “Abortion is a way to end pregnancy” (www.plannedparenthood.org). There is no mention about a baby or death, only ending a pregnancy – a solution to something “unplanned.”

3. The Choice

Now it’s very important to understand just how terrifying a pregnancy can seem to a vulnerable young woman. She may be afraid of losing her boyfriend, her parent’s reaction, being kicked out of school or having to drop out of her college classes. It can be a very fearful time. All she knows is that she has to take care of this problem as quickly as she can. She doesn’t think about the baby as a person; the baby is an enemy who is threatening her lifestyle.

Then imagine how reassuring it would be to read on Planned Parenthood’s website that for a few hundred dollars she can make it all go away with a “quick and easy” visit to a quiet clinic, without anyone ever having to find out. It sounds pretty good, doesn’t it? At the abortion clinic she will be told that what is inside of her is just a “blob of tissue” and “her pregnancy will simply be terminated”. She will be told how simple and easy this will be. Nothing is said about how an abortion will cause the baby to experience intense pain and suffering. The mother is not told of any feelings of loss and regret that she might have as a result of the abortion.

Just like Eve in the Garden, she must make a choice. Just like the forbidden fruit, it appears to be a good thing; it seems to solve all her problems. It sounds so good, in fact, that young women in our churches choose abortion just as often as women who never go to church. They are deceived for lack of knowledge, and their children perish.

C. Class Activity

Heidi Huffman’s Story (Use Appendix O.)

To reinforce that truth, I want to tell you about a girl named Heidi who survived the doctor’s scalpel in an attempted abortion. It is hard to believe that a child could survive a suction abortion, but the following story is true and miraculous. This story is included in your Take Home Packet, and will help you complete the homework assignment this week. *(Read Heidi’s story in Appendix O. If you have time, you may want to read some of the following survivor stories: Sarah Smith, Baby Grace, Amy Charlton, Gianna Jessen, Christelle Morrison, and Baby Hope included at the end of this lesson)* Heidi and all of those who have survived abortion testify to the truth of life before birth and what abortion does to it.

D. Closing

1. Summary

Today you have learned more about the amazing unborn child. You now know what abortion really is; you are just beginning to understand how it hurts the women who have them, and you can already recognize the lies that are being told.

Have you learned anything about abortion that causes you to cry or be extremely sad? Does it make you angry? (*Allow responses.*) God wants to use these emotions for His good purposes. Allow God to use your emotion to help move you into action. God wants to use you to make a difference by showing His compassion and love. In Matthew 5:13 and 14, Jesus tells us to be salt and light in a very dark culture.

You might be thinking: Yes, I want to be salt and light, but what can I, as an eighth grader, do with this knowledge?

- *Emphasis on personal holiness-living what they believe/stop doing what they know is wrong, so they can be "righteous"*
- Always pray because Scripture tells us in James 5:15-16, "*The fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.*"
- Learn more/continue to educate yourself.
- Never be silent when God gives you the chance to speak the truth *in love*.
- Continue to write letters of truth, in love and respect, to newspapers, legislators, pastors, friends, family, etc.

2. Take Home Assignment

(Encourage the students to send their letters. It might be a good idea to take the finished ones with you to mail. Watch for their letters to be printed in the paper and for any responses afterward, and then share them with the class. Throughout the year, opportunities may arise for the class to write another Letter to the Editor or to their elected officials. If you are able, consistently encourage this effort.)

3. Closing prayer

Remember to pass out the Take Home Packets.