

Tennessee Right to Life
SANCTITY OF LIFE CURRICULUM
Grade 9 – Week 2
HELP AND HEALING

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

Please watch the video After the Choice before showing it to your class. It will also be helpful to read the newspaper insert "Hope and Healing" and the brochures that are a part of this lesson and the take-home packet. These are included in the teacher's notebook.

Last week, the students learned that although the unborn child is the ultimate victim in an abortion, a mother is often victimized by abortion. This week in the video, *After the Choice*, they will hear actual testimonies from women who have experienced abortion and its devastating effects. The goal is to take the students beyond a response of, "How could a mother kill her baby?" to a compassionate understanding of how women are victims of abortion and of the abortion industry. We, of course, want to do this without accepting abortion as a solution for ANYONE. It is the concept of "hate the sin but love the sinner". I Corinthians 13:1 is a key concept for this lesson.

These high school students are literally on the front lines in the war against abortion. In the coming years it is likely they will encounter someone who is thinking about having an abortion or someone who has had an abortion. You can prepare them now to respond with truth and compassion while saving lives. They will learn now that abortion is **never** a good solution for them or their friends. There are other options. (See Appendix N for a list of pro-life help centers in Tennessee.) Pray that you will be open to God's strength and wisdom in teaching this lesson.

SCRIPTURE:

I Corinthians 13:1

Matthew 10:16

Memory Verse--"*I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.*" (NASB)Deuteronomy 30:19

LESSON GOALS:

- To allow the students, through a video, to hear testimonies from women who have been victimized by abortion
- To give the students the needed "tools" to respond with compassion to those who are in a crisis pregnancy
- To acquaint the students with the local help centers

THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENT:

- See how abortion hurts women.
 - Discover ways to help those in a crisis pregnancy.
 - Have compassion for women who have been victimized by abortion.
 - Recognize area pro-life agencies.
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VISUALS / SPECIAL PREPARATIONS:

- Video, *After the Choice*
- *If Someone You Know Considers Abortion* brochure

TAKE HOME MATERIALS:

- *Victims of Abortion* sheet
- *If Someone you Know Considers Abortion* brochure
- *The Pain that Follows* brochure
- Yellow L.I.F.E. card

TEACHING THE LESSON**A. Introduction****1. Prayer**

Start with a prayer thanking God for the gift of life and for the opportunity to learn the truth about this great gift. Pray for those mothers who might be considering abortion, that they might hear and accept the truth about the gift of life that they have growing inside of them. Pray for those who have been hurt by abortion. Pray that we might show love and compassion to all those who need our help. Pray for an end to abortion.

2. Review

Last week we discussed our definition of abortion. After going over the different graphic methods of abortion (suctioning babies from the womb, tearing them apart, poisoning them, leaving them to die, or suctioning out their brains) you can see that abortion as an act of violence that kills a baby and hurts a mother. (*Write this definition on the board.*) Therefore, you know that the unborn child who is killed is the ultimate victim of abortion.

Why do we often times consider the mother a victim of abortion, also? (*Possible answers...they are scared and confused and abortion is sold to them as a quick and easy solution...they might not know about the child growing inside them and believe the abortion clinic worker when told it is only tissue...they are sometimes coerced by boyfriends or family to abort the child...many women suffer physical and psychological problems after their abortions...*)

Let's go over the take-home assignment. How many of you drove by the abortion clinic? (*Review the questions on their take-home sheet helping them to see that the clinics look like ordinary business with ordinary things going on inside. That's what the clinics want--to look like a normal place of business. Even the business names sound noble enough to lead you to believe that they are doing a normal, needed business activity.*)

Did anyone look up the abortion clinic ads in the phone book? (*Discuss what they noticed.*) **Did you look up Hope Resource Center or the Pregnancy Help Center?** These are non profit ministries where a woman can find the love and help she needs to give life to her child. How are these centers trying to combat the marketing techniques of the abortion clinics in order to intercept abortion minded women? This is done by offering their services for free to women who are in a crisis pregnancy so they can hear all the facts and know the truth. (*They offer free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and free counseling with confidentiality. Studies show that those who see their baby on an ultrasound machine are less likely to abort.*) Crisis Pregnancy Centers do not make money on a woman; they just offer help so that she can make a LIFE decision. By assuring confidentiality they are trying to persuade the woman to come in to the Center so that they can offer her the truth about her baby and help her carry her baby to term.

In Matthew 10:16 (*maybe a student can read it aloud*) we are told to be shrewd as serpents but innocent as doves. That's what pro-life pregnancy centers are doing in their ads.

What do you think about all of this? After reading the brochures that were sent home last week about how abortions kill babies and hurt women and men, how can you use this information? (*Discuss that friends may come to them and they will need to know the place where help is available. They will also need to share their information about what abortion is and how violent it is. Your male friends need to know that a real man takes responsibility for his actions and protects women and children from harm. He may need to convince a friend to be a hero and save a baby's life, instead of persuading or assisting a girl to have an abortion. The father can play a huge role in a life and death decision.*)

Do you remember what post abortion syndrome is? (*Discuss*) Do you know that crisis pregnancy centers and other **pro-life** agencies are the ones who are helping women who suffer from abortion? The abortion clinic sells her an abortion, takes her money, and then leaves her on her own. If she has problems afterwards (physical or psychological) she is told that they can't help her. Pro-lifers don't want any woman to have an abortion, but they are the ones trying to help her pick up the pieces if she does. Isn't that what we are called to do? That's what God does for us. He gives us the WAY. Sometimes we turn away, but God is always there to help us pick up the pieces. We are called to do the same for these women who are suffering and grieving after their abortions.

B. Class Activity- *After the Choice* Video

Although we have talked about how abortion hurts women, it is a more powerful message when given by the victims themselves. We are going to watch a video entitled *After the Choice*. In this video, you will hear from women who deeply regret aborting their children. These women will never forget their children or their abortions. They live daily with a "choice" that they made. These are real women with real testimonies.

(*Show Video--approximately 30 minutes*)

(*Discuss the video.*) After hearing these women speak of their own experience with abortion, how does that make you feel? The pro-abortion movement tells us that abortion is a safe and simple procedure. What do you think now?

Many young women who find themselves pregnant will talk to their friends and family before deciding to abort their baby. After seeing the video today and after our discussions of the various effects of abortion, I think that we can all agree that abortion is not something that we want our friends or family members to go through.

C. Class Discussion

You are at an age where you might be approached by a friend who is pregnant and scared or by a classmate who knows of your pro-life convictions. What are you going to do? (*Let students respond briefly, then summarize.*) Prayer is essential, through it God can give you're the wisdom you need to share the truth that can save a life. He will give you the compassion, understanding and discernment you need. (*Have the students read I Corinthians 13:1*) Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit has brought this person to you, and He will give you the words that you need. (*Pass out the brochure, "If Someone You Know Considers Abortion and the yellow LIFE business card."*) Let's look at this yellow LIFE card. The strategy we use spells the word L-I-F-E. (*Write this on board.*)

-LISTEN to what the person is actually saying. Remember how Sue, the abortion clinic "counselor," tried to find out Jane's fears so that she could use those to sell her an abortion? We need to listen to those fears or problems so that we can help the woman through this time.

-INFORM the mother of her unborn child may not be enough to persuade her to choose life. At this point her focus is on how this pregnancy is going to affect her, so you may have to tell her all the ways in which abortion could hurt her. Persuading her to go or go with you to, or at least call a pro-life help center (like Hope Resource Center), will insure that she gets truthful information. In these circumstances, you are literally in a life and death situation. Therefore, you cannot give up.

-FIGHT for the life of the unborn child and for the woman. Ask them to let you share some information with them. Then contact Tennessee Right to Life or Hope Resource Center to get literature or videos to watch **with** your friend. The video we just saw and many others are available from Tennessee Right to Life. The phone numbers for these groups will be on a card in your take-home packet.

-EMPATHIZE; let her know you are trying to understand how she feels. Help her focus on the positive things in her life. Help her with the things that are troubling her. Help her contact the nearest pro-life Help Center, but **not** the abortion clinic. Show her the website, www.gravityteen.com to help her learn more. *(Have the students write this address on their LIFE card)* Assure her that you will help her as she makes a decision for LIFE, and that you will be there for her. She is scared and she needs your help. Remember that the abortion clinic is ready to offer her a "quick and simple" solution, but you must remind her of what seems to be a short term gain (not being pregnant anymore) really leads to long term pain (the physical and emotional impact). You have to be sure that you offer her the right solution; remember our memory verse from last week--"*I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.*" (NASB)

On the back of this little card you will find contact information for local pro-life help. This card is an important resource to keep with you. Take a moment to put it in your wallet or purse right now, so that you can refer to it at anytime.

C. Closing

1. Summary

Today we have covered a lot of important information--information that may save a life or change hearts and minds of pro-abortion friends or family members. Use this information to spread the TRUTH about the sanctity of human life.

- We talked about how abortion is an act of violence that kills a baby and hurts a mother.
- We heard real-life testimonies of how abortion hurts women.
- We learned how to minister to those who are in crisis situations so that they might choose life.
- We saw that abortion is never a good solution for anyone.

2. Take Home Assignment

Many of you will have to write a research paper for school this year. Abortion might be a topic that you could present in your paper. It could be a very effective way of presenting the truth to your teachers and classmates. **Tennessee Right to Life** is a local group that educates the community about the sanctity of human life. They have information including books, literature, and videos available for checkout, along with a list of helpful pro-life websites which they can email to you.

During this week, I want you to read back over the brochure, *If Someone You Know Considers Abortion* and another brochure that I am sending home with you today, entitled *The Pain that Follows*. There is a worksheet to fill out and a letter to your parents. **This information is worth reading and keeping.** You never know when someone you know will need it.

3. Prayer

End with a prayer asking God to help us respond in love to those who are in a crisis pregnancies and to those who have been victims of abortion.

Remember to pass out the Take Home Packets