

A LESSON ON LOVING ALL HUMAN LIFE

GRADES 1-3 - Lesson II (Year III, Day 1)

Goal: To introduce children to the concept of personhood and the unique gift of each human life created intentionally by God.

Materials:

Baby Development Cards (see links below)
"How Big is Baby?" Activity Sheets (pg. 10-11) (see link below)
glue, scissors

Lesson: The human person is amazing! On the very first day that you existed inside of Mom's womb, every detail about you was written in a cell smaller than a grain of salt. God knew what color your hair and eyes would be, whether you would be a boy or a girl, if you'd grow to be short or tall, and the exact shade of your skin. From your first moment, you were uniquely YOU! Let's take a look at how babies grow in the womb.

Activity: Introduce the students to the [Baby Development Cards \(1\)](#) and [Baby Development Cards \(2\)](#). Let them know you are going to play a game. Tape the Baby Developments Cards in a prominent place. Tell the students you are going to read some facts about babies in the womb and they can guess what age (what Baby Development Card) the fact goes with. The facts are listed here:

- When you were this far along in the womb, your heart had been beating for a week already. (4 weeks)
- When you were this far along in the womb, tooth buds for your permanent teeth began to grow in your gums, getting ready for the moment you would lose your first tooth. (26 weeks)
- When you were this far along in the womb, you could move your arms and legs, although your mom might not have felt those movements for a few more weeks. (10 weeks)
- When you were this far along in the womb, you could suck your thumb, yawn and stretch, and you could get the hiccups. (20 weeks)
- When you were this far along in the womb, your eyes were developing and your arms and legs were starting to grow. (6 weeks)
- When you were this far along in the womb, you were able to recognize your mom's voice and you might have gotten scared by loud noises. (24 weeks)

- When you were this far along in the womb, your taste buds that allow you to enjoy ice cream and pizza began to form. (8 weeks)
- When you were this far along, you had all the body parts you needed to feel pain. (12 weeks)
- When you were this far along, you could do somersaults by doing a series of movements similar to walking. (28 weeks)
- When you were this far along, you were most likely having dreams. (32 weeks)
- When you were this far along, you could grasp firmly and your toenails had reached the tip of your toes. (36 weeks)

Discussion:

- Did any of the fun facts surprise you or stick out to you?
- How big were you when God first created you in your mom's womb?
- Why is it important to keep babies safe before they are born when they can't help themselves?

Activity:

Pass out the "[How Big is Baby?](#)" activity sheets. Have the students glue the pages together back to back, fold in half lengthwise, cut along dotted lines, and put pages in order.

Prayer:

Jesus, we thank you for creating each of us unique and special. We thank you for loving us and knowing us each by name even when we were tiny, before we were born. Show us how to share your love with everyone we meet, especially babies and moms and dads who are expecting babies. Allow us to see the wonder of your creation in everyone we meet. Amen.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website