

A LESSON ON LOVING ALL HUMAN LIFE

GRADES 4-6 - Lesson I (Year III, Day 1)

Goal: Introduce the idea of respect for all life beginning at the moment of conception and why it is so important to support women who are expecting children.

Materials:

Photos of Babies in the Womb

Print pages 14-15 of the Valuing Life Tool Kit

Print pages 16-17 of the Valuing Life Took Kit (see links below)

Lesson: This lesson deals with the beauty and wonder of development of human life prior to birth. Each and every person is created by God out of love, from the very first, tiny moment of their lives before they are born. Even though authors of the Bible didn't have microscopes or ultrasound machines, they knew that God had plans for even preborn babies.

Activity: Have students work in pairs to match the scripture verse with the lesson it teaches about life before birth from pages 14-15 of the [Valuing Life Tool Kit](#).

Discussion: Introduce the topic of fetal development. When a baby is born, he or she is already 9 months old and has been doing amazing things—even if we haven't been able to see them. Even though some people believe that preborn babies are not people, God has revealed to us in the Bible that life and personhood begins when a baby is conceived (not when they are born.) Korean culture includes the person's time inside the mother's womb when calculating a person's age. How old are you if we calculate the time you spent in your mother's womb?

Look at the different stages of fetal development shown in the [Photos of Babies in the Womb](#). What is taking place as the baby gets older? Talk about how quickly the baby is growing and developing. You share some of the fun facts listed on pages 8-9 of the [Valuing Life Tool Kit](#). Ask the students to share stories of newborn babies they have seen in their families and what they noticed about their abilities.

Watch: ["Celebrate Life"](#)

Discussion:

Why is life worth celebrating?

What can we do to help people be happy about welcoming a new person into the world?

What can we do to create a world where everyone is welcomed as a gift from God?

Activity: Provide each student with photocopies of pages 16-17 of the [Valuing Life Tool Kit](#). Make sure they have colored pencils, markers or crayons to draw with. Ask them to fill in each frame with a picture of some person who has greatly influenced their life. It may be a family member, a friend, or even a public figure they admire. This is meant to be a thoughtful project—do not encourage pet pictures or fictional characters. Once students have finished the project, ask them to share with the class one or two people they have chosen and why. Then ask if they can predict what their lives might be like now had that person not been born. How many people are influenced/affected by any one single person? What does this tell us about the value of each individual in God's plan for the world?

Prayer:

God our Father, you created each person as a gift from you to the world. Help us to recognize the gift, even when our eyes see problems or inconvenience. Help us to treat each person as a gift and share our lives as a gift to the world for you. Amen.

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