

## **Respect Life Week: Youth Night Resources** The Beginning of Life

Opening Prayer: Prayer through the intercession of St. Therese:

O gentle Jesus, through whom all life came to be,  
hear our prayers for all men and women.  
Hear our prayers for the great and powerful.  
Hear our prayers for the weak and broken.  
Hear our prayers for the littlest and most innocent.  
Hear our prayer for tall human cedars  
and the very littlest of human flowers.  
May all see in each the souls so precious to You,  
and through the intercession of Saint Thérèse  
may each of them be kept safe and loved.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Topic Introduction:

Human life is a gift from God. Even when a person is small and vulnerable in the womb, life is sacred and needs to be protected. Pope Benedict XVI said, “Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary.” God willed us into existence and gave us value as human beings. Sometimes, we place our worth on what we can do or achieve (e.g. athletic ability, our grades, the way we look) but, in reality, we are good simply because God loves us.

Suggested videos and questions

### [Sister Bethany Madonna at the 2018 March for Life](#)

In this video, Sr. Bethany Madonna speaks of the power of love and the mission of the Sisters of Life. Sr. Bethany Madonna tells the story of Raquel, a young mother who chose life and inspired another to do the same.

- Why is it important that we surround women in unexpected pregnancies with love and support?
- Why is it important to overcome the moral relativism that often surrounds abortion – the “I wouldn’t have an abortion, but I can’t tell someone else what to do” mentality?

### [Jessica and Meghan’s Story](#)

Heartwarming story of one college girl who helped a friend through a pregnancy.

- What does Jessica and Meghan’s story teach you about how we are supposed to help women in crisis?

### [Abby Shares Her Own Abortion Experience](#)

- How can fear be overcome, particularly for women with an unexpected pregnancy?
- What did you learn from this video about the healing that is necessary after an abortion?

Song: [Mother and Child](#)

- This song is written from the perspective of a mother who suffered an abortion. The pain experienced after abortion is real. Jesus desires to bring healing and hope after abortion. He waits in the Sacrament of Confession to pour out His love and mercy.

Discussion:

- How can we build a culture of life? How can we build a world without abortion? Discuss what that would look like. How can you begin building that culture in your life, starting today?
- How does an abortion affect every person involved? The mother, father, grandparents, the abortion provider?

Activity:

Spiritually “Adopt” An Unborn Child. In this opportunity, teens will be able to spiritually adopt a newly conceived child who is at risk of being aborted. This adoption includes a pledge to pray for the child and all unborn children for 9 months. Ask them to name the child for whom they will be praying. Remind them of the great power of prayer. For more info and resources for spiritual adoption: <https://archny.org/spiritual-adoption/>

Closing Prayer

### **A PRAYER AFFIRMING LIFE**

God, you are the Lord and Creator of Life.  
You have blessed men and women  
With the privilege  
Of bringing new life  
Into the world.

You have imparted in our hearts  
The desire to nurture and protect life  
At all its stages.

I accept these gifts as a sacred trust.  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit  
Help me to affirm the value of life.

Grant me the wisdom and courage  
To speak out and defend human life.

Give me compassion  
So that I may lovingly counsel  
Those who would reject the gift of life,  
Which is the reflection  
Of Your image and likeness.

Amen.