

Respect

LIFE WEEK

Life is Precious from the First Moment of Conception

A Lesson on Loving all Human Life

Grades 1-3

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

Materials:

Horton Hears a Who [video](#) or [audio-drama](#). If time allows and the school has a copy of the newer, longer version of Horton Hears a Who, feel free to substitute that one.

Horton Hears a Who classroom resources: <https://teachwithme.com/blogs/getting-to-the-core/item/4746-dr-seuss-activities-for-horton-hears-a-who> (copy and paste link in browser)

Diving into Dignity

Human dignity is **intrinsic**. This means our dignity is with us our entire life. It is part of who we are. We have dignity right from the first moment of our life even before we are born. Today we'll learn about babies before they are born and the intrinsic dignity they have.

Based on the Human Dignity Curriculum (World Youth Alliance)

Lesson: The human person is amazing! Right from the very beginning of our life, we are completely unique. There has never been anyone just like you and there will never be anyone like you again. God created you and He loves you. Today, we are going to learn about what life is like right at the very beginning – before a baby is born. Even though we can't see a baby before it is born, we know how special it is and how important it is to take care of every person.

Discussion:

Do you know of anyone who is expecting a baby now?

What can you do to help the mom and dad get ready for the baby?

What can you do to make a new baby feel welcome?

Activity:

Ask them to share stories of newborn babies they have seen in their families and what they noticed about their abilities.

Discussion:

Is a person more important as they get older or bigger? Or are people just as important when they are small? What about when they are very small—no larger than a cumquat or a chickpea?

Before babies are born, what can we do to help keep them safe and healthy? Can only moms and dads do these things? Or can other people help too?

Why is it important to keep babies safe before they are born when they can't help themselves?

Watch or listen: Horton Hears a Who [video](#) or [audio-drama](#).

Activity: Choose a craft/activity using these Horton Hears a Who classroom resources: <https://teachwithme.com/blogs/getting-to-the-core/item/4746-dr-seuss-activities-for-horton-hears-a-who> (copy and paste link in browser)

Discussion:

What does “a person’s a person no matter how small” mean? In the story, who does this refer to?

Horton took care of the Who’s even when people did not believe they were people. What lesson can we take from that about taking care of and protecting babies before they are born, even though we can’t see them?

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