

Respect LIFE WEEK

Life is Precious from the First Moment of Conception

A Lesson on Loving and Respecting all Human Life

Grades 4-6

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:

Print pages 10-11 of the [Valuing Life Tool Kit](#) for preborn baby size comparisons

Print pages 14-15 of the [Valuing Life Tool Kit](#)

Print pages 16-17 of the [Valuing Life Tool Kit](#)

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: 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](#).

Activity: 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. Look at the pictures on pages 10-11 of the [Valuing Life Tool Kit](#) of several different stages of fetal development. What is taking place at each time? Talk about how quickly the baby is growing and developing. Ask them to share stories of newborn babies they have seen in their families and what they noticed about their abilities.

Discussion:

Is having a baby easy?

Is every woman who gets pregnant really happy about it? Why or why not?

What might make someone unhappy about being pregnant?

Just because someone is not happy at one time, does that mean she will stay unhappy?

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