

We Cannot Separate from God's Mercy

The Effects of Pregnancy Choices on Individuals and the World

Grades 7-9

Goal: Students will learn about the difficult choices facing a woman in an unintended pregnancy and how the effects of her choice change her and the entire world.

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 in our mother's womb. Our dignity is essential to who we are as human persons at every age and stage of life.

Based on the Human Dignity Curriculum (World Youth Alliance)

Lesson: Today's lesson explores how abortion denies the intrinsic dignity of unborn children and hurts women. Abortion is often promoted as a quick and easy decision to a difficult problem, particularly for teens. And, from the outside it can definitely appear that way. But hundreds of thousands of women have shared stories of incredibly pain and grief following abortion—grief and pain they cannot get rid of no matter what they do. Thankfully, we know that God can forgive anything we do, including abortion. While God's healing will not take away many of the terrible effects of abortion, it can mend the relationship with God and allow the woman to find spiritual strength while she rebuilds the rest of her life.

Watch: [this video](#) on the Sisters of Life and the work they do.

Watch: Sr. Bethany Madonna from the Sisters of Life shares how every person can build a culture of life: [Watch her video here.](#)

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?
- Why is it important that we surround women in unexpected pregnancies with love and support?

Watch: ["Hannah's Story"](#)

Discussion:

What were some of the challenges Hannah faced when she found out she was pregnant?

What kind of support did she receive?

How did she feel about the choice she made?

God is always trying to reach us with His love and mercy. No matter what we have been through, we can always turn back to Him. He has a beautiful plan for every life: yours, mine, every woman who is pregnant and every child in the womb!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You show your great love to the world by sending children to reflect your glory. We pray that every child will be welcomed with love and joy as a gift from you. We ask for strength and hope for every woman experiencing an unintended pregnancy. Allow her to see your face in her unborn baby. Send her the support she needs to make the choice for life so that she and her baby will live happily in your love. Allow us to be instruments of your love, to encourage life by offering support in any way that we can to all mothers and fathers and their children. We ask You to bring Your healing and grace to all those who have been affected by abortion. We trust that You can make all things new. Amen.

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