

**Life is Precious**

**Tuesday of Respect Life Week – January 2022**

**Putting Others First**

**Grades 7-9**

**Goal:** 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. Students will learn that all human life begins at conception and is made in the image of God.

**Materials:** Baby Announcement ([video link](#))  
Raquel's Story ([video link](#))  
In Her Shoes ([video link](#))  
Bible

**Watch:** The resources for this lesson involve the announcement and discovery of pregnancy. The resources together teach that while discovering a pregnancy can be frightening, it should be a cause of great joy and excitement (as shown in the video of the young boy!). New life should inspire a sense of wonder and awe and a renew our beliefs in the creator of all things.

Baby Announcement ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

What is the natural response to the news of a new baby?

Why is the little boy's reaction so precious?

Why do you think that video has gone viral?

How does this video capture the truth that every human life is a gift?

Read The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)

Discussion Questions

How do you think Mary felt the day after the Annunciation?

What might have been some of Mary's fears?

What are some of the fears a woman who is pregnant might face today?

Raquel's Story ([video link](#))

Discussion Questions

What are some of the pressures that Raquel felt when she found out she was pregnant?

Where did Raquel find support during her pregnancy?

In Her Shoes ([video link](#))

Discussion Questions

How did Carol's friends respond to her pregnancy?

How can we help support a woman who is pregnant and scared?

Once we recognize that the image of God is present in every human person, how does that change how we treat others?

**Activity:** The purpose of this activity is for the students to reflect on a time in their life where they felt how Mary might have felt when the angel appeared to her. This activity can encourage students to face new changes in their life with joy and acceptance. It can also help students to empathize with women who face unplanned pregnancy.

Have the students write a short essay about a time in their life when they received news of a big change in their life. Ask them to include how they felt when they received the news, were they excited? scared? both? They should include how their faith played a role in processing this change. How did their fear transform into a joyful acceptance?

**Prayer:**

*Almighty God,  
we thank you for the gift of our world and of all creation.*

*Help us to appreciate the beauty and greatness of the earth,  
and help us to take care of it and protect it.*

*Give wisdom to the people responsible for making decisions that will  
affect the environment. Help them to make good  
choices that will reverence the earth and all its inhabitants.*

*Amen.*

*from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website.*