



Tuesday of Respect Life Week

Life is a Gift Grades 7-8

Theme: All human life is sacred - from conception until natural death.

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: When Does a Human Life Begin? ([video link](#))
Baby Announcement ([video link](#))
Bible

Lesson: God has created each of us out of sheer love. Not long ago, none of us here existed. This city existed, this school existed, but none of us did. And then...something amazing happened. God chose us. God chose to create you and me and each one of us.

Pope Benedict XVI says, "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." Our value as human beings comes from this amazing fact that God willed us into existence.

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. Every human person has infinite value. As a result, we are called to protect and care for every human life, especially the most vulnerable – the unborn.

Watch: When Does a Human Life Begin? ([video link](#))

Discussion Questions

What are the stages of a human organism?
When does human life begin, according to science?
How does the science affect the way we think about abortion?
What does the "capacity to develop" teach us about when human life begins?
Why do you think people are hesitant to say when life begins?
Is it ever ok at any stage of development of a human organism to end the life of that human organism?

Watch: Baby Announcement ([video link](#))

Discussion Questions

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?
Why are so many people watching and appreciating his response?

How does this video capture the truth that every human life is a gift?
The little boy is filled with awe at the news. How can we increase our own “wonder and awe” at the reality of new life, even life that is hidden?

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?
How can we help to lift those fears and support a woman who is pregnant?
Once we recognize that the image of God is present in every human person, how does that change how we treat others?

Activity: We all need to be reminded that our life is a gift, that our life matters, and that God made us good. Ask the students to imagine that they know someone who is doubting these truths. Ask them to share some ways they can let that person know his/her life matters. (*You are loved. You are chosen. Your worth doesn’t depend on what you can do or how you look*). Remind students that their lives matter and they are gifts from God.

Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
and for the lives of all of my friends and classmates.*

I ask your blessing on all women who are expecting babies.

*May they see the beauty and joy of the life of their
unborn son or daughter.*

Help them to know they are heroes to their sons and daughters.

*And, give me commitment to be a fearless leader for life in my school, my family, and my
community.*

Amen.

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