

LIFE IS A GIFT

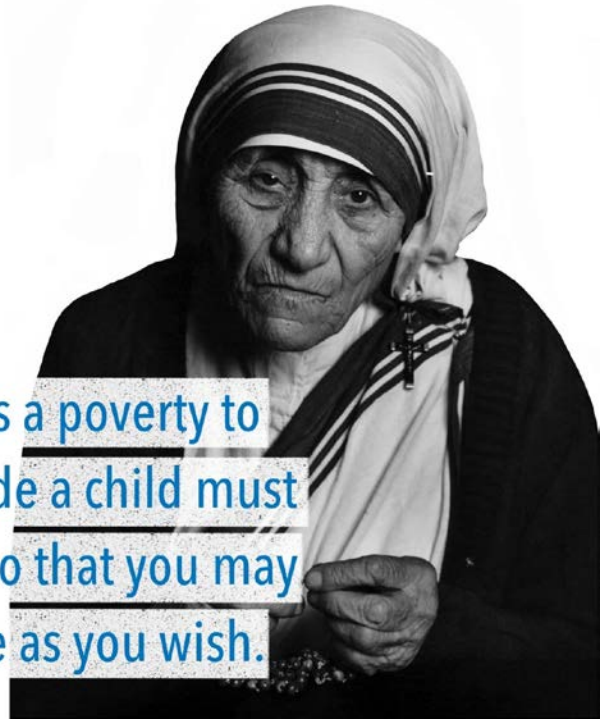
GRADES 7-9 – Lesson 2

GOAL: Students will learn that it takes far more to build a culture that welcomes and respects every human life than just talking about it or creating laws. We have to recognize each person's dignity from the moment of creation, where they were uniquely created and are loved unconditionally by God. Only then will abortion and other attacks on human life end.

Lesson:

St. Mother Teresa called abortion “the greatest destroyer of love and peace” because it teaches people to “use violence to get what they want”. A world that promotes abortion as an acceptable solution to unexpected pregnancy has lost the understanding that every human life is a gift from God, whether intended by the parents or not. Today, more and more, women facing unexpected pregnancies feel alone and unsupported. She often fears that this new life will be a burden or a threat to her own well-being. She may feel like abortion is her only option.. But the truth is: new life is always a gift and brings new hope, joy, and beauty to the world even in the most challenging circumstances.

If we want to build a world without abortion, we must celebrate every human life as a gift of infinite value from the moment of conception through the very last breath.



It is a poverty to
decide a child must
die so that you may
live as you wish.

Opening Question:

- Why do you think so many people in our society believe abortion is acceptable, at least in some circumstances? What are some common justifications? *(See below for some helpful resources to address questions that may arise)*

Watch: [Baby Olivia](#)

Discussion:

- What surprised you about Olivia's development?

Watch: [Do you know what an abortion is?](#)

- In this video, people on the street are shown an animated, medically accurate depiction of an abortion procedure and then asked if watching it has changed their minds on the issue. *(Note: the above video is non-graphic, viewers only see the reactions of people who have watched the animations)*

Discussion:

- Do you think abortion is an issue that is talked about in an accurate, unbiased manner?
- Why did so many people who considered themselves "pro-choice" change their minds after watching the videos? Do you think the common justifications for abortion discussed earlier hold up against the reality of what an abortion actually is?
- What do you think makes abortion a difficult subject to talk about? How can we open up the conversation?
- Can you think of a group of people for whom seeing the reality of abortion depicted so clearly could be painful? Why do we need to be sensitive when speaking about this issue? *(Answer: Those who have suffered an abortion and those close to them may find that the subject can trigger very traumatic memories)*

Watch: [Abortion Survivor's Story](#) (9 min)

Discussion:

- How does the issue of abortion change when you hear someone's personal experience?
- When Claire speaks of "survivor's guilt" what does she mean?
- Claire never got to know her twin, have you ever thought about the all the friends, relatives and perhaps even siblings that you have never met because they were aborted?

Activity:

Have students get into groups and create a poster with a drawing of a pregnant woman whose baby you can see in the womb. Using bibles and the internet, have students research scripture about life in the womb, life being a gift, and being created in the image of God. Have students present their posters to the class.

Scripture recommendations:

- Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."
- Psalm 139:13-16 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."
- Matthew 1:20 "But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"
- Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in your mother's body I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart to serve me. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations."
- Luke 1:41, 44 "When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. [And she exclaimed], 'when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.'"

Prayer:

*Virgin of Guadalupe,
Patroness of unborn children,
we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion.
Help expectant parents to welcome from God the priceless gift of their child's life.
Console parents who have lost that gift through abortion,
and lead them to forgiveness and healing through the Divine Mercy of your Son.
Teach us to cherish and to care for family and friends until God calls them home.
Help us never to see others as burdens.
Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws.
Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice.
We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself.
Amen.*

Supplemental Information for Teachers:

- Here is a [great resource](#) to help you answer the “tough questions” about abortion. You will find videos that address common objections like: “My Body, My Choice”, “Abortion can be medically necessary”, “What about Rape and Incest”, “Abortion can solve overpopulation” and many more. Be sure to preview the videos before showing them to your students as some may contain mature content that may or may not be appropriate for your class. Even if you choose not to show the videos directly, they will give you tools to prepare your own answers to the “tough questions”.