

Respect Life Week: Resources for Youth Nights

Topic: Abortion

Opening Prayer: Pray with a decade or full Rosary from these [Rosaries for life](#).

Introduction: Leader introduces topic of abortion as well as the Church's stance on it. These [USCCB resources](#) may be helpful. Abortion is a highly emotional and charged issue for many people, and throughout this session be sensitive to the fact that this can be a deeply personal topic for some of the youth. Though it goes without saying, a tone of mercy and love is much more effective than that of judgement.

General Discussion Questions:

- When does your life start to matter? (Leader may suggest different time frames, such as when a child can walk, when she can talk, when she is born, or when God created her.)
- Why do we believe that life is so precious?
- How can we help people to see how valuable their lives are? How can we come to believe that our own lives are immensely valuable if we are doubting that?

Suggested videos and discussion questions:

[The Most Important Question about Abortion](#) 5 minute video that discusses the morality of abortion in a logical and non-emotional way. This is an excellent overview or refresher for students who haven't had much exposure to the moral discussion surrounding abortion.

- Discussion questions from the video's [study guide](#):
 - What are some of the difficulties the average person faces in attempting to come to their own conclusion about whether to support abortions (in general) or not? What are some of the questions and arguments that proponents on both sides of the issue raise?
 - Should there be such a huge difference in how a human is treated and valued before birth versus after being born? Why or why not?
 - Mr. Prager concludes the video by stating, "Good societies can survive people doing immoral things, but a good society cannot survive if it calls immoral things moral." What exactly does he mean by this? Do you agree? Why or why not?

[What "Choice" Actually Does](#) Abby Johnson's story of the day she watched an abortion on the ultrasound and finally realized what was actually taking place. Non-graphic but compelling testimony that is not argumentative or defensive but is very powerful. 5.5 minutes.

- Discussion Questions: How does Abby Johnson's story make you feel? How does Abby communicate her reverence for life as she tells the story? How can we live out that same respect for life ourselves? What is the main message of this video?

[A Birthmother Story: Grace](#) A birth mother shares her moving story of choosing adoption for her baby. This video stresses that adoption is chosen because birth mothers love their children more, not less. 4 minutes.

- Discussion Questions: Grace says that adoption is “something that you do out of love”. How was her love for her child apparent in this video? What are your reactions to this video and the idea of adoption in general? How does adoption uphold the dignity of every person?

Suggested articles and discussion questions:

[Abby Johnson My Church Kicked Me out](#) Abby Johnson's story of the way she was treated by her church forces us to ask the question of whether our actions could ever be encouraging someone to choose abortion instead of encouraging her to choose life. A very interesting and easy to read article about the importance of mercy and ministering from the Church. Even reading an excerpt as a group would be powerful.

- Discussion Questions: Abby Johnson encourages us to “BE pro-life, not just say it”. How are we doing this in our own lives? How can we do it better? What role can the Church play in the Abortion discussion? How can the Church intervene and show mercy? Why is mercy important in relation to abortion?

Activity: “[Facts of Life](#)” quiz from the Diocese of Arlington. Conduct this as a fun contest with a prize for the individual or team who gets the closest to the correct answers. Remind students beforehand that in the womb, time is measured in days or weeks.

1. When did your heart begin to beat? *24 days*
2. How old were you when you could first feel pain? *9 weeks*
3. How many weeks old were you when your brain, eyes, jaw, and arms were showing signs of development? *6 weeks*
4. How many weeks old were you when your elbows and fingers were evident, and you began making your own blood? *8 weeks (note: this is the point when 62% of abortions take place)*
5. What age was your fingerprint developed? *10 weeks*
6. What age were you when you could start to suck your thumb? *12 weeks*
7. When could your parent determine if you were a boy or a girl? *60 days with ultrasound*

Future Involvement:

[40 Days for Life](#) Inform your youth about the next 40 Days for Life campaign near you and make a plan to participate as a group, witnessing and praying in support of life.

Contact a local organization that supports pregnant mothers such as [Good Counsel Homes](#). Inquire as to what items they are in need of an organize a drive with your youth, or plan a baby bottle drive to collect monetary donations.

Closing Prayer: You may want to reflect with a song such as “[10,000 Reasons](#)” by Matt Redman or “[Beautiful Things](#)” by Gungor. Conclude with one of these [prayers to end abortion](#).