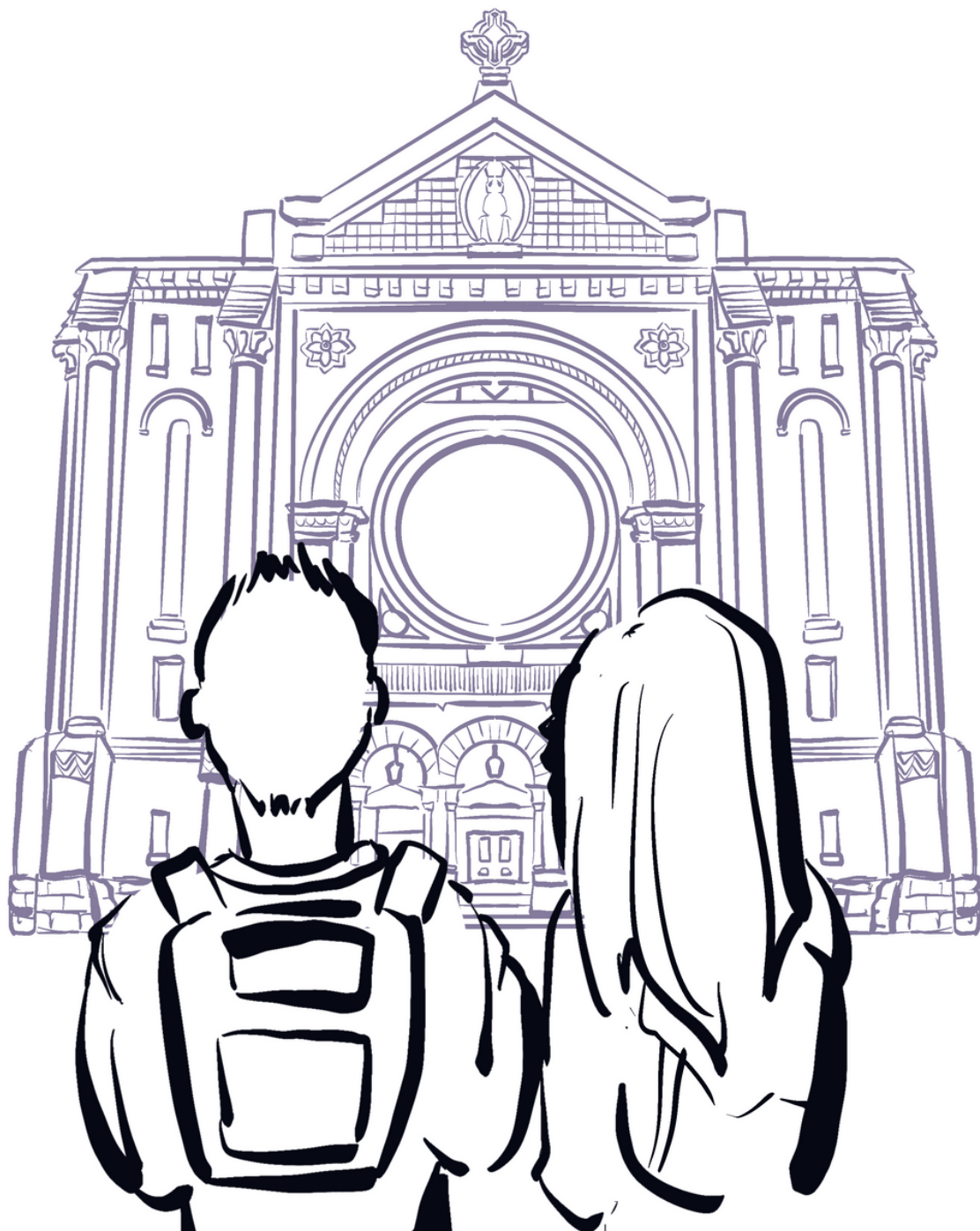


**Life Culture**

# WAY, TRUTH, LIFE

A Faith-Based Resource on Life Topics for High School



*I am the way and the truth and the life. (John 14:6)*

Way, Truth, Life was developed for the parent, Sunday school teacher, pastor, teacher, and older sibling who wants to share the Gospel of Life with young people. Life is God's gift worth celebrating, and youth and young adults in high school can know and live this! As our culture continues to evolve and embrace a God-less understanding of culture, life, and sexuality, these lesson plans will allow you to speak about the issues in a life-affirming and age-appropriate way. As young people become disciples of Christ, they can be convicted compassionate pro-life apologetics, journey with a friend who may be in crisis, defend their values, and put their faith into action.

## WAY

This compilation of these life lessons are rooted in Jesus' way. This way is of mercy, compassion and understanding, and tender love and charity. These lessons will guide young people to pursue the will of our Father with the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that they can journey with others to eternity.

## TRUTH

The content is saturated with truth as revealed to us in the Bible and in scientific evidence. Each chapter features a story about a person, whose own life radiated the gospel of life. Some of the lessons will include joyful expressions of life, while other lessons seek to expose the reality of our destructive culture so that we may be encouraged to take meaningful action.

## LIFE

From the unborn and their mothers, to the elderly, disabled, and everyone in between, these lessons will show us to love those who are most vulnerable. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) Let us be the hands and feet of Christ, and be inspired to protect the sanctity of life from fertilization to natural death.

# LEGEND



QUESTION - Personal reflection, class discussion, or a way to start thinking about the class' topic.



BIBLE READINGS - Scripture excerpts to supplement or solidify the topic.



VIDEO - Some classes have optional videos if time and technology permit.



PRAYER - Each class ends with a prayer.

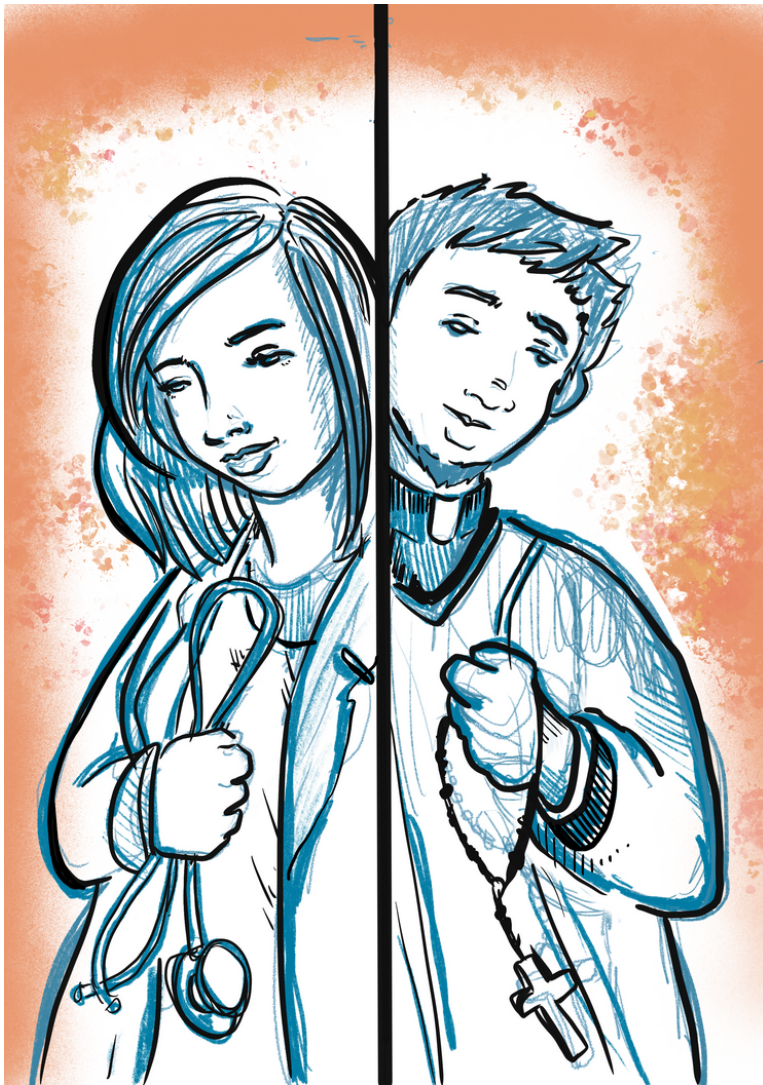


ACTION - Each class ends with a call to action. This is something you *do* to live out what you just learned.

Way, Truth, Life was developed by Life Culture Canada.  
Life Culture Canada is a pro-life educational resource that seeks to equip churches and individuals to speak for life. To learn more or to get involved, please visit [www.lifeculture.ca](http://www.lifeculture.ca).

Illustrated by Jesse James Baris

Bible Verses are in the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation.



## OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL

### A Big Heart Open to God

*"I see clearly," the Pope Francis continues, "that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds.... And you have to start from the ground up."*

# OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL

## What Kind of Wounds?

Does anyone here aspire to work in the health care field? Or know someone who already does? Though we are not qualified to heal physical wounds, through Christ we are given the power to help heal wounds of the heart.

When we hear the word abortion, a lot of things come to mind. For some, they think it's a "choice," or a "right," or "health." Many women and men are affected by abortion - including some of the people in our lives.

## What is an Abortion?

An abortion is the intentional termination of a human pregnancy. In other words, through medicine or surgery, a human pregnancy is ended, and a human's life is ended. Dr. Anthony Levatino previously performed abortions, and will teach us about the various abortion procedures that take the lives of little ones in their mothers' wombs. This video contains illustrations of sensitive subject matter. Viewer discretion is advised.



[Click here to watch Abortion Procedures by Live Action](#)

## OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL

About 300 children in Canada die every single day to abortion. Women feel the pressure from society, their family, friends, and husband/boyfriend to have an abortion. They can end up believing that it was a choice they needed to make. In the following video, you will see the pain in a mother's heart after having an abortion. This is Elizabeth's abortion story.



[Click here to watch Elizabeth - THE MISSING PROJECT CANADA](#)

"I wake up every morning, and I know what I've done, and I regret it every single day."

As you can see, abortion is not the solution that people make it out to be. Instead of supporting a woman accomplish her dreams while having a child, abortion shows that she is not strong enough to do both. Moreover, abortion can leave women with physical scars, psychological scars, and emotional scars that the abortion industry does not address or help heal.

Elizabeth is not alone. Many other women have gone through similar feelings and experiences. If Elizabeth, or women with similar experiences entered our church today, would she be met with judgement, or will she be met with the loving arms of the Father, extended to her through His children? She should be met with love, mercy, and encouragement to turn to God to ask for forgiveness and receive grace. Consider the woman at the well in John 4.

# OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL

John 4:7-19



A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."

How has your church welcomed those who have made the mistake of abortion in the past?

**When we encounter people who made choices that left wounds in their hearts, let us, the Church, help them heal in, through, and with Jesus Christ through His mercy, love, and forgiveness.**



# OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL

IF A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER TELLS YOU THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING AN ABORTION HERE IS WHAT YOU COULD DO:

## LISTEN

Listen to them and be willing to understand how difficult the circumstances must be - no judgement. Listen to listen, and not to reply. Often, these women in crisis will tell their stories and will be faced with pressure to have an abortion, or faced with condemnation from people who may call her names like "murderer." Just listen.

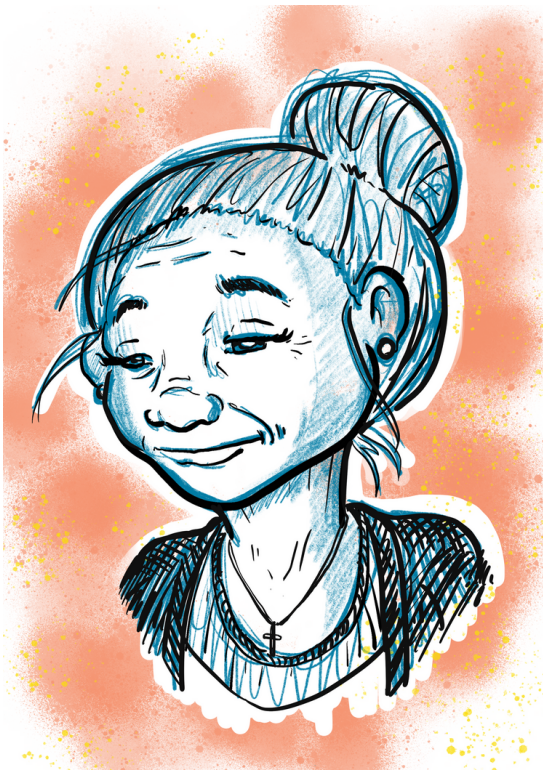
## CARE ABOUT THE MOTHER AND THE BABY.

The mother needs to know that her own life is precious to understand that the life inside her womb is precious. Let her know that you care about her and her unborn child. Make sure that the mother has a safe place to have a healthy pregnancy, and offer to help her contact the nearest crisis pregnancy center. If the mother is willing, find other mothers in your church who could help you journey alongside the mother.

## SHARE THE TRUTH WITH LOVE.

Remind her that the embryo or fetus inside her womb is a human person who already loves her unconditionally. Since we know that life begins at fertilization, we know that God already has a plan of hope for her child. Go to the Pro-Life Apologetics section to learn how to communicate the humanity of the unborn with love. 76% of women who have had an abortion would have made a different choice if a loved one had encouraged them to do so. Be the one to give them a reason to choose life!

# OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL



Consider how the COVID-19 pandemic affected you. Did you feel lonely? Isolated? Alone? Many people experience this daily within the walls of personal care homes. Many people who are lonely, isolated, and alone seek out the help of a medical professional to end their life prematurely. Sometimes those with mental illness seek out ways to end their lives through medical assistance. In Canada, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) is available for individuals who meet certain criteria like illness, disability, and age. MAiD in Canada comes in two forms:

1. Euthanasia.
2. Assisted Suicide.

**Euthanasia** is when a physician or a nurse practitioner directly administers a substance that causes death, such as an injection of a drug.

**Assisted Suicide** is when a physician or nurse practitioner provides or prescribes a drug that the eligible person takes themselves, in order to bring about their own death.

But what message does that send those who are disabled, lonely, and elderly? That their lives are not worth living? That it is better to be dead than to be disabled, lonely, or elderly? Surely, we know that that is not true! Every person, no matter their ability or age is made in the image and likeness of God and is our brother and sister. 82% of people who choose medically assisted death do so because they feel like they have lost the ability to engage in meaningful activities. How can we, the Church, be present for those who are lonely? How can we share Christ's living water to those who find no hope for their future?

Visit [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca) for more information.

# OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL

## Love Comes with Community

With the Holy Spirit we are tasked to change the world as we know it. We can't change the world alone - God changes the world through us. Here is the story of Dorothy Day, Servant of God, whose love for God was expressed through justice.

**"WE HAVE ALL KNOWN THE LONG LONELINESS AND WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION IS LOVE AND THAT LOVE COMES WITH COMMUNITY."**



[Click here to watch](#)  
[Saints in :60](#)  
[Dorothy Day](#) by  
America - The Jesuit  
Review



Dorothy Day is an example of someone who has had an abortion herself, but has found healing and has used her experiences to glorify God and uplift people around her.

# OUR CHURCH, THE FIELD HOSPITAL



- Look up your local Crisis Pregnancy Center and see if they are looking for some items for donation.
- Save the Crisis Pregnancy Center phone number in case you need to help someone contact them.
- Place loving pro-life brochures at your church and school.
- Reach out to a local personal care home and visit with the residents there or reach out to an elderly family member.

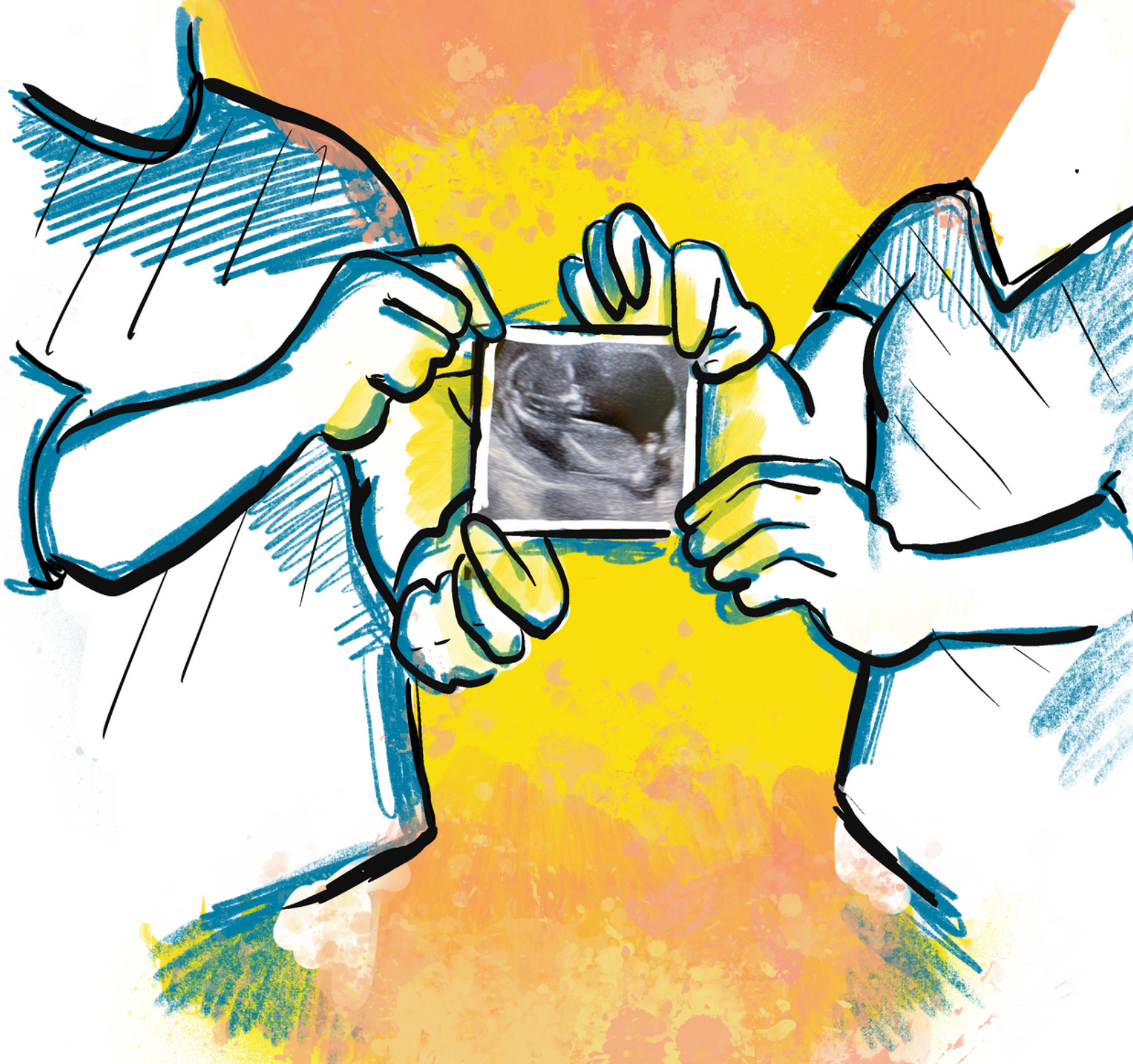


## Closing Prayer

Open with a prayer and allow space for each student to lift up a decision or concern to the Lord within the prayer.

# **SPEAKING UP FOR THE UNBORN**

PRO-LIFE APOLOGETICS



# SPEAKING UP FOR THE UNBORN

Lets Talk About it!

Pregnancy can be challenging. Let's learn how to talk about the unborn in a compassionate, yet compelling way so that the next time you're asked about abortion, you can speak up for the mother and the unborn.

Some "pro-choicers" call those who advocate for life "woman-haters." Some who advocate for life call abortion advocates "murderers." Let's stop the name calling, and let's start having productive conversations. We use three tools that allow us to acknowledge the mother's needs, while uplifting the life of the unborn.

**The Three Tools are:**

- 1. Common Ground**
- 2. Analogy**
- 3. Question**

## COMMON GROUND

Through building common ground, we show the person we are conversing with that we are good listeners. We hear their concern for the mother in their difficult situation. We care about the mother as much as we care about her unborn child.

Start by saying, "I agree it would be challenging to be pregnant and  
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Fill in the blank with the difficult circumstance that they bring up like "not having enough financial resources," "be a young mother," "to learn that your child is diagnosed with a medical condition."

If they bring up sexual assault or the health of the mother, be even more understanding.

# SPEAKING UP FOR THE UNBORN

## ANALOGY

Using an analogy can help us understand ideas that are hard to grasp. Think about Jesus and how he used parables to talk about the Kingdom of God.

Imagine that a mother of a two-year-old lost her job due to the pandemic. She no longer has the financial means to provide for herself and her child. Would it be okay for her to end the life of her child?

## QUESTION

Asking a question can help guide the conversation to lead us from the temporary circumstances to the humanity of the unborn.

If it's not acceptable to kill the born child because of poverty, why is it acceptable to kill her unborn child?

## I'm Human Too

After using the three conversational tools, your friend might say, "okay, it is wrong to kill a two-year-old, but it's not the same as abortion."

At this point in the conversation, we can ask four important questions.

- Do you believe all humans should get human rights?
- If something is growing, isn't it alive?
- If someone has two human parents, wouldn't she be a human too?
- If we agree that everyone in the human family deserves human rights, doesn't that mean that abortion is a human rights violation?

# SPEAKING UP FOR THE UNBORN

## When does Life Begin?

There are three possible answers to this question. Before, after, or at fertilization.

### **Before Fertilization:**

An egg cell or sperm left alone in a woman or man's body cannot become a human.

### **After Fertilization:**

We know that the person beside you did not appear out of thin air. We can trace them down to a younger version of themselves. You can trace every person back to one moment.

### **At Fertilization:**

Human development begins at fertilization when a sperm fuses with an oocyte to form a single cell, the zygote. This marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual."

According to 95% of biologists, life begins at fertilization! It takes 9 months for a zygote to develop into a fetus that is ready to be birthed. At fertilization, a new, whole person is alive!

## Who is Human?

The SLED Theory, developed by Steven Schwarz answers the question, if the unborn are different from those who are born, are they still human? The answer is YES! Here's how we know.

S - SIZE

L - LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

E - ENVIRONMENT

D - DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY



# SPEAKING UP FOR THE UNBORN

## The SLED Test

### **S - SIZE**

The tallest person to ever live so far was Robert Wadlow who was 8'11." Just because we are shorter does that mean we are less human? Of course not! The same goes for a toddler, fetus, embryo, and human zygote. Just because they are smaller, does not mean they are less human. Personhood is not defined by size!

### **L - LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT**

Imagine we have an adult and a child, is the child less human because they are less developed and don't have the same abilities? Of course not! In the same way, the unborn are less developed than born children simply because they did not yet have the time to develop. At any stage of human development, we are still human.

### **E - ENVIRONMENT**

Do you enjoy swimming? Flying in an airplane? Travelling to a country with a completely different climate? We are all still humans in these different environments. Just because the unborn child is inside their mother's womb, a different environment than us, does not mean that they are less human.

### **D - DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY**

If a toddler fell into a pool and was rescued by a lifeguard, would we say they are less human? Is a child who receives their nutrition through their mother's milk less human? Of course not! In fact, we might even say that depending on one another is what makes us most human - that we are all connected and are dependent on one another. An unborn child is dependent on their mother for nutrition and oxygen, but that does not make the unborn less human.

Since we know that the unborn are equally human as those who are born, we know that they too, deserve to live their life!

Check out [Focus on the Family](#) for more information on the SLED test.

# SPEAKING UP FOR THE UNBORN

Human = Human

There have been many injustices throughout human history. This is because we failed to recognize humans as humans due to differences such as race, gender, and religion. At this time, the majority of our society fails to recognize the unborn as humans because simply because of their age. Every day, about three hundred human beings die from an abortion in Canada.

Even though the unborn are different than us because of their age, does not mean they should not be protected! You and I have the chance to stand up for the weakest, most forgotten, and most vulnerable people in our society.

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