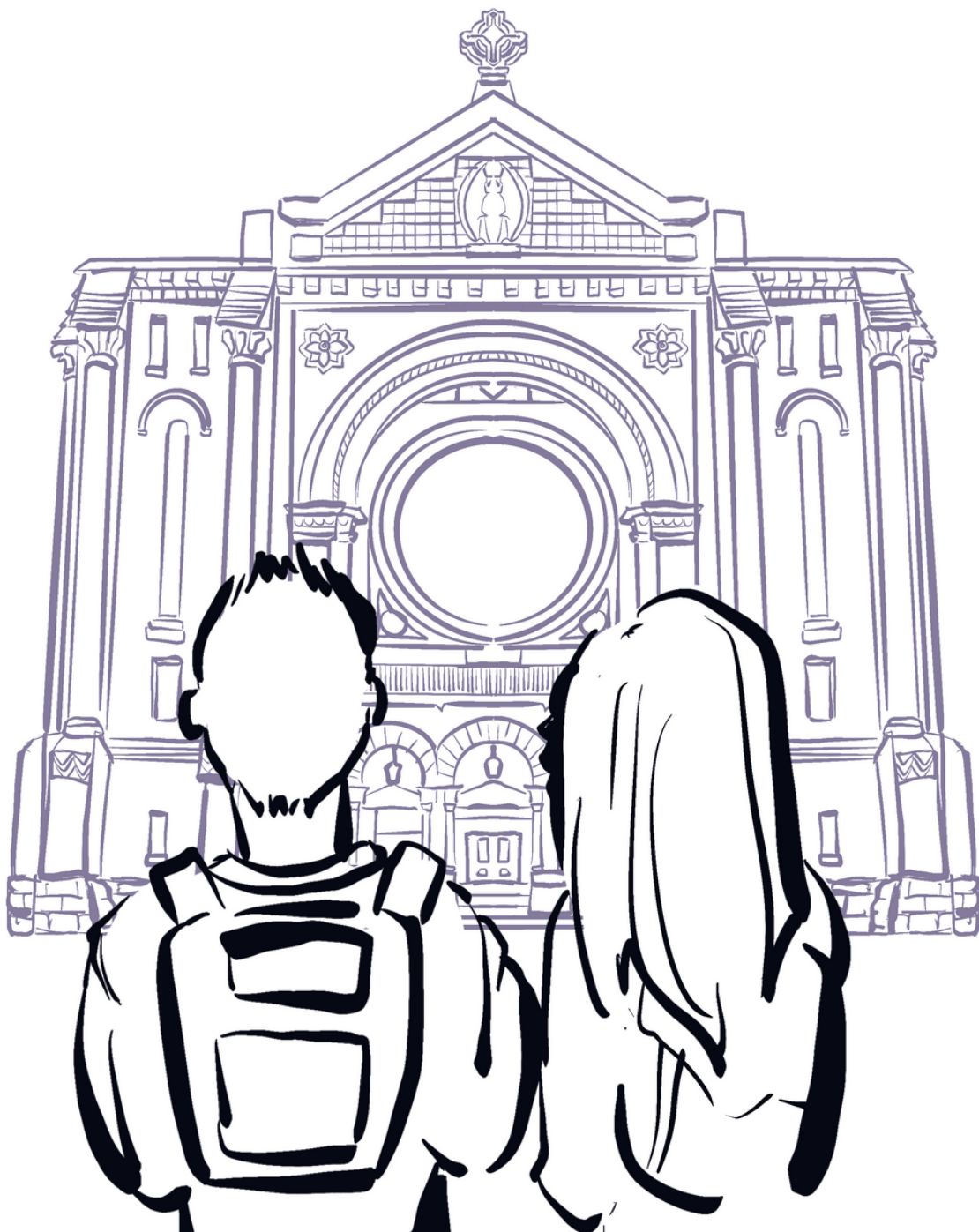


Life Culture

WAY, TRUTH, LIFE

A Faith-Based Resource on Life Topics for Middle 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 children from Gr. 5 to Gr. 8 can know and live this! As our culture continues to evolve and embrace a God-less understanding of culture, and life, 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.



STORY - These stories feature a follower of Jesus whose life teaches us to love Jesus better.



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.

Illustrated by Jesse James Baris

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

NO GREATER LOVE



What is the first thing that comes to mind when I say peace?

Do you imagine walking in nature? Putting on your favourite playlist? Peace is something that frees up space in our heart to love God and to love our neighbour, the two greatest commandments that Jesus gave us.

The Two Greatest Commandments

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and all your strength.
2. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

NO GREATER LOVE

Who is our neighbour anyway? Our family members and relatives, friends, classmates, teachers, teammates, and strangers are our neighbours. The person on the street asking for change is also our neighbour who deserves love through a smile and a wave.

We sometimes forget about our neighbours who are elderly, our neighbours who have disabilities, and our neighbours who are called the "unborn," who are still developing in their mother's womb. Jesus calls us to love these neighbours as we love ourselves.

Loving Our Neighbour

The elderly in our society can sometimes be forgotten because we don't see them. When was the last time you shared Jesus' love to a grandparent? Sometimes the elderly are disconnected from their family and friends and don't have anyone to check up on them. They can end up feeling lonely, isolated, hopeless, and unimportant. We know that they are not unimportant. We can learn a lot from them. How can you and your family give love to an elderly person who is forgotten?

People with disabilities are our neighbours. By sharing love to them, we can learn kindness and extending a hand when someone asks for help. Sometimes our society says that people are only useful if they can do certain things. We know that it does not matter if someone has certain abilities - everyone is worthy of God's love.



[Click here to watch CGI 3D Animated Short: "Ian" - by Mundoloco CGI Ian Foundation | TheCGBros](#)



Discuss how each character in the video might have felt at different parts in the film.

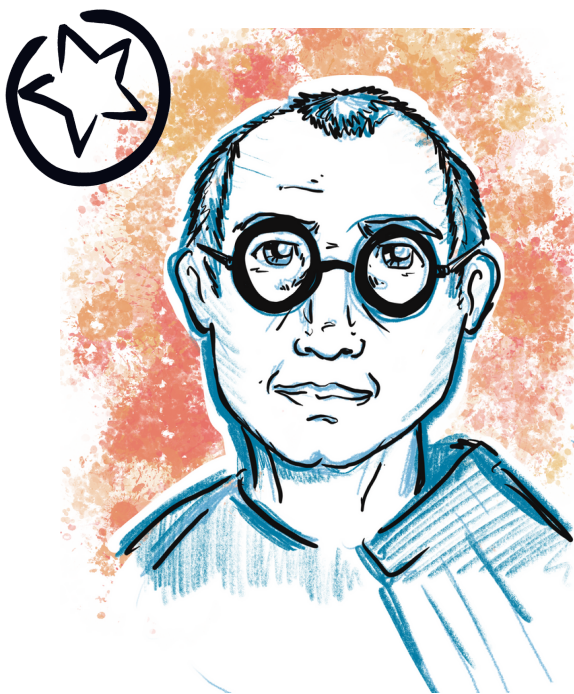
How did you feel while watching the video, and what did you learn?

NO GREATER LOVE

The “unborn,” who are still developing in their mother’s womb are also our neighbours. The baby, or sometimes called fetus, which means 'young one'. Even though an unborn child is smaller than us, depends on their mother, are in their mother’s womb, and are less developed than us, they deserve to be cared for and protected because they are our neighbour. How can you and your family show love to an unborn child and their mother?

How to Love our Neighbour

All of these people, the elderly, disabled, and the unborn are made in God’s image. That means that they are all special, unique, and loved. As we’ve learned our society sometimes forgets that they are human and don’t see the value of human life. There was a time in history when a society did not recognize the value of human life in people. During the Second World War, Jewish people, along with people with mental and physical disabilities, the Polish, Roma, Soviet citizens, and homosexuals were not recognized as human beings and were victims of the Holocaust. They were imprisoned, starved, overworked, and killed in concentration camps because they were seen as “less than.”



One of the hundreds of thousands of prisoners in the concentration camps was Maximilian Kolbe. He was a Polish priest.

One day, someone in the concentration camp tried to escape. Because of this, the guards wanted to punish those who remained. They picked a man who had a wife and children. The man cried out, asking for the guards to have mercy on him because he had a family, but the guards did not back down.

NO GREATER LOVE

Maximilian Kolbe

Maximilian Kolbe volunteered to take his place instead.

The guards switched the two men. On Maximilian's last day, he blessed those who were about to kill him. Today, Maximilian Kolbe is known for being in the pro-life movement. This is because Maximilian Kolbe recognized that true love for our neighbour means to lay down our own life for another person, the way that Jesus taught us to love.

No Greater Love Than This

Does that mean we need to volunteer ourselves to die for another person? Of course not! Not in that way. Instead, it means to stand up for people like the elderly, disabled, and the unborn whose lives are at risk.

Proverbs 31:8-9



Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out; judge righteously; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Abortion teaches us that the baby must die so that the mother must live. Jesus taught us that he died so that all of us may have life.

We never want the tragedy of the Holocaust to happen again, where human beings are not recognized as human beings simply because they are different. Instead, we have to share our love directly to the elderly, disabled, and the unborn. We can also love them by promoting them in our society and show that their lives matter and that they are important. Many people will not like that we stand up for the unborn, but we can have hope that we are truly sharing the best kind of love, which is to sacrifice our wants to protect the life of someone else!

NO GREATER LOVE



Reflect on the following questions.

How can you and your family show love to an elderly person who is forgotten?

How can you and your family show love to people with disabilities?

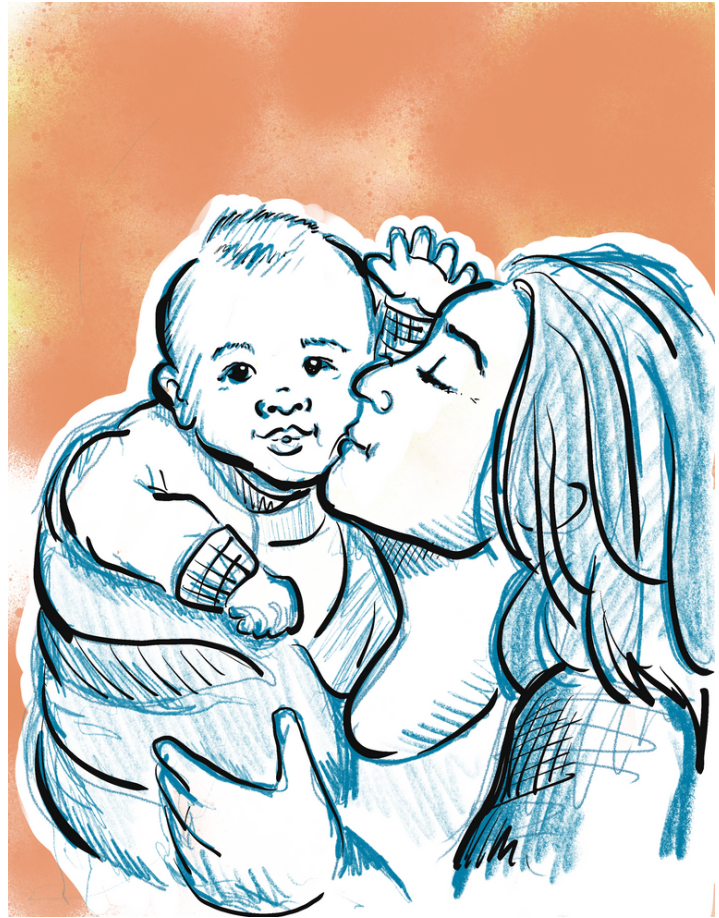
How can you and your family show love to an unborn child and their mother?




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.

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE



 Have you ever thanked God for giving you life?

King David in the Psalms thanks God for making him, and he not only thanks him for the gift of life today, but also for the moment that God starting creating him - in the womb. We too can say this prayer of praise to God for creating us.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalm 139:13-16

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well..



A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

Let's take a look at how God knitted us together in our mothers' wombs



[Click here to watch Your Life Before Birth by the Endowment for Human Development](#)

You are so Loved!

When have you felt most loved? Maybe it was through the words "I love you." Maybe it was during a birthday party where your family celebrated you! Maybe it was when you were sick and your parent made a special soup to help you feel better. You can feel loved when a friend comforts you after someone has bullied you. Sometimes we feel most loved when we see that our future is something we can hope for. God says to us,

Jeremiah 29:11



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

From the moment that God created us, he had a plan of hope for each and every one of us.

Hope for the Child, Hope for the Mother

What is our hope? Not only can we have hope in a better future, but we have someone to look to as our hope, so the better question is who is our hope? Jesus Christ is our hope. Jesus went through many moments of suffering and pain, and yet on the third day, he resurrected and beat death forever! Because of Jesus, we can have hope even on the darkest days.

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

When a woman becomes pregnant, we are often happy and want to celebrate with baby showers and gender reveal parties. However, when a woman has an “unplanned” pregnancy, she may feel unprepared, empty handed, and hopeless. Since she might feel like she is not yet ready to be a mother, others might even tell her that the solution to her “problem” is to end her child’s life through abortion.

Instead of helping a woman choose to end her child’s life, our church should help mothers during the difficult times. This could be through supporting her choice to continue her pregnancy, supporting her with materials (providing diapers, baby formula, clothing, and more), and supporting her emotionally by being a friend. Adoption is also a loving option that can allow for God’s plan to unfold beautifully.

Never forget God has plans of hope for that woman. God has plans of hope for the child. Even if they fear the pain and suffering that may come from the pregnancy, one can have hope for joy and love to fill our hearts and help them continue. Yes, the road may be difficult, but never forget that God has a plan of hope.

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE



- Thank your parents for choosing the gift of life by caring for you inside and outside of the womb
- Share something you've learned from today's lesson with your family members.



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.

Sources

Grade 5

Catholic Online. "St. Maximilian Kolbe - Saints & Angels." Catholic Online, n.d. https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=370.

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Grade 6

Catholic Online. "St. Gianna Beretta Molla - Saints & Angels." Catholic Online, n.d. https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=6985.

"Your Life Before Birth." The Endowment for Human Development, n.d. <https://www.ehd.org/your-life-before-birth-video/>.