



Choose the Child, LLC

Thank you for your interest in the Monthly Lesson we are offering for you to use in your home or classroom.

Each month, we will provide a **FREE** Lesson focusing on a **USCCB Respect Life** topic.

Our Footprints for Life Program is a comprehensive supplement that educates children on ALL life issues and how they can make a difference.

For more information on our complete program, please visit <http://www.choosethechild.com/footprints-for-life-and-more.php>

If you have any questions, please contact **Natasia Kissinger** at ntkissinger@choosethechild.com or **504-339-5384**.

Empowering & Educating Children to Change the Culture

A Culture of Life Program

Natasia T. Kissinger

January: The Voice for the Voiceless

Roe v Wade Commemoration

We are all called to be a voice for those who can't be a voice for themselves.

Materials

All Grades – Letters to Elected Officials: Contact your local Respect Life Office for the contact information for your elected officials

Discussion Prompts and Questions

Discuss each of these statements with the children:

- Prompt: “But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” – Matthew 19:14

Question: Why did Jesus say let the children come and do not stop them? Answers will vary but idea is that Jesus loves the little children. Children are innocent, full of love and trust.

- Prompt: During his visit to the US last year Pope Francis left us with inspiring words to remember our call to work for the freedoms that are inherent in our dignity as humans:

“One of the highlights of my visit is to stand here, before Independence Mall, the birthplace of the United States of America. It was here that the freedoms which define this country were first proclaimed. The Declaration of Independence stated that all men and women are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that governments exist to protect and defend those rights. Those ringing words continue to inspire us today, even as they have inspired peoples throughout the world to fight for the freedom to live in accordance with their dignity.” (<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/watch-live-coverage-of-pope-francis-religious-liberty-meeting-with-hispanics-87983/>)

Also, the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence states:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Questions: What are the 3 unalienable rights that are mentioned in the Preamble? What does each of these mean? Life: the right to life; Liberty: independence; Pursuit of Happiness: Live a life of joy and pursue your dreams. Discuss each of these in detail.

- Prompt: We have a significant role in the legislative process. It is extremely important that we all become active in promoting and encouraging a God-pleasing decision on a bill by

contacting our congressmen. There is no other issue that is more concerning, than the protection of all life from creation until natural death, especially the most vulnerable – the unborn.

5th Grade and Older Additional Discussion Ideas

- "We must not be surprised when we hear of murders, of killings, of wars, of hatred. If a mother can kill her own child, what is left but for us to kill each other." -Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta
- Abortion – taking the life of an unborn baby. This can be performed for the entire 9 months of the pregnancy in certain states. However, the laws are changing rapidly to protect the unborn. It is important that we continue to pray for the end to abortion. (Don't discuss the methods of abortion.)
- Does God approve of abortion at any time? Why or why not?
- Share the following Bible verses that let the children know that abortion is wrong and is hurtful to God. Discuss each one. After discussing them, ask the students which one meant the most to them:
 - Deuteronomy 30:19-20
 - Exodus 20:13
 - Jeremiah 1:5
- Share Abortion Statistics (<https://www.gutmacher.org/media/presskits/abortion-US/statsandfacts.html>)
- Some students may ask about abortion in the event that the mother's life is in danger. In this case, the doctor should use all measures to save both lives.
- The Roe v. Wade decision was made on January 22, 1973. This decision made abortion legal. The Catholic bishops of the United States have designated January 22 as a special day of prayer and penance in reparation for the massive killing that has resulted from the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court Decision.

Activities

All Grades: Letters to elected officials

- Have the students address envelopes to the elected officials of your city, state and country. As a group, you can compose a letter asking these officials to defend life from creation until natural death. You can also email or contact the President of the United States. January is a great time to look for key life bills and possibly make that a civics lesson incorporated into this program.
- This is a good link to look up bills in both house/senate:
<https://www.congress.gov/legislation?q=%7B%22congress%22%3A%22114%22%7D>
- And the general link: <https://www.congress.gov>

6th Grade and Older: Role-playing

- What will you do if you are faced with questions about abortion? How would you respond to support life?
- *Suggestion: If someone says they think that it is ok for a mother to have an abortion, ask the students at what point in the pregnancy do they think it would be wrong.*

- What would you say to someone in these situations:
 - Friend finds out that she is pregnant who is only 15
 - A mom learns that her unborn baby only has one arm
 - The parents are told that their baby has a genetic condition and will only live a few hours after birth

Additional Activity: King Cake Party/Lesson

- For a fun and easy lesson on teaching the children a pro-life concept and about the Catholic roots of the King Cake, visit ChoosetheChild.com

Important Day: Roe v. Wade Commemoration, January 22nd

- The Catholic bishops of the United States have designated January 22 as a special day of prayer and penance in reparation for the massive killing that has resulted from the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision (handed down January 22, 1973) which permitted abortion throughout pregnancy.
- It is a good idea to have a Mass or prayer service to commemorate this day. If the whole school has spiritually adopted a baby and you are going to do a “gender reveal” celebration, this would be the time to do that. A “baby shower” to benefit your local pregnancy center could also be held at this event.

Lesson Plan Closing Prayer

Glory Be

Spiritual Works of Mercy & Corporal Works of Mercy:

Ideas Available. Simply contact Natasia Kissinger at ntkissinger@gmail.com

Footprints for Life

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