

Lesson C12 – What Christians Stand For – LIFE

Opening Discussion

1. What is the coolest thing about creation/nature that you know?

2. What do each of the following scripture passages tell us about creation and our creator?

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 148:3-13 ³ Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, ⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, ⁹ you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, ¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, ¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, ¹² young men and maidens, old men and children. ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Isaiah 40:26 ²⁶ Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Colossians 1:13-17 ¹³ For [God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Ephesians 1:4 ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Watch God Of Wonders The Documentary (2009) Full Length *(just first 3 minutes)*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NIB_n8Y66o

3. When you think about your life and all of creation – what should your response be?

Now read Psalm 139:13-16

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ 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 were none of them.

4. **Verse 15** talks about being made “in secret.” What is the secret place? _____

Why do you think is it called secret? _____

What does it mean to be “woven together”? _____

It was not long ago that it was impossible to see a baby in the womb. Today, however, we have technology that allows us to get a see a baby while he or she is still in his or her mother’s womb before he or she is even born. We have special cameras and devices that let us see the different stages of development of a baby before he or she is born. Because of this special technology, we are able to see what only God used to be able to see. We can see into the once “secret place,” a mother’s womb.

Watch: A Never Before Seen Look At Human Life In The Womb | Baby Olivia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-IQOooYAs8>

Developing Baby Milestones

- Baby’s heart begins beating at 18 to 21 days once God places them in the womb.
- Brain waves can be detected and recorded by 5-6 weeks in womb.
- Baby starts to move at 6-7 weeks in womb.
- Unborn babies can suck their thumbs.
- They have finger and toe prints.
- They can feel pain.
- Even two months before they are born, they can taste with their taste buds.

5. **In verse 14**, the psalmist writes that God, our Creator, has made us well.

How does this Scripture tell us we are made? _____ & _____

What does the word “fearfully” mean here?

What does it mean to fear the Lord?

6. **What do Isaiah 44:2, Ecclesiastes 11:5, and Psalm 127:3 say about children?**

Isaiah 44:2 ² Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 ⁵ As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

Psalm 127:3 ³ Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

One of the sad realities of our broken world is that some people don't view babies as blessings. Rather than wanting to keep a baby, some women choose or feel pressured to kill their baby. There have been over 63,459,781 babies killed in abortions since Roe vs. Wade was passed into law in 1973. (<https://www.lifenews.com/2022/01/07/63459781-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortion-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973/>)

7. **Why do you think some moms and dads decide they don't want their babies?**

8. **What are some other options for parents who don't want to keep their babies?**

9. **What do the following scripture passages tell us about how much God values life?**

Exodus 20:13 ¹³ "You shall not murder.

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Isaiah 49:15-16 ¹⁵ "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

10. **Now read 1 Kings 3:16-28. How does King Solomon know which woman was the true mother of the living child?**

This story represents the truly unselfish love of a mother. She chose life for the child instead of death. This is true of mothers who choose adoption over abortion. Of course, it is not easy to give up a child for adoption (this is an understatement); but it brings peace to know that two adoptive parents will love her child.

Adoption brings unspeakable happiness to couples that are unable to bear children. There aren't enough babies available for adoption, so those couples usually have to wait three to five years before they get a baby. If more women chose to give their children in adoption rather than have abortions, then those couples wouldn't have to wait so long.

11. **Finally read Psalm 71:18 and Isaiah 46:4.**

Psalm 71:18 ¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Isaiah 46:3-4 ³ "Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; ⁴ even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

These passages show us that God values the life of even the _____.

<p>We must respect all human life</p> <p>from the _____ to the _____.</p>

Extra Thoughts...

Can we tell the moment of each person's creation by God? Science offers a clear answer that perfectly complements the teaching of Scripture. Dr. Alfred M. Bongiovanni, professor of obstetrics at the University of Pennsylvania, states, **"I have learned from my earliest medical education that human life begins at the time of conception. I submit that human life is present throughout this entire sequence from conception to adulthood and that any interruption at any point throughout this time constitutes a termination of human life."**

Speaking of the early stages of a child's development in the womb, Professor Bongiovanni says, "I am no more prepared to say that these early stages represent an incomplete human being than I would be to say that the child prior to the dramatic effects of puberty is not a human being. **This is human life at every stage.**"

Dr. Jerome LeJeune, genetics professor at the University of Descartes in Paris, states, "after fertilization has taken place a new human being has come into being." He says this "is no longer a matter of taste or opinion. **Each individual has a very neat beginning, at conception.**"

Professor Micheline Matthews-Roth of Harvard University Medical School argues, **"It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception."** Every indication is that the moment of each person's creation is the moment of his conception. Before that moment the individual (with his unique DNA) did not exist, and from that moment he does.

[Psalm 139:13-16](#) paints a graphic picture of the intimate involvement of God with a preborn person. God created David's "inmost being," his soul, not at birth but before birth. David says to his Creator, "You knit me together in my mother's womb." **Each person, regardless of his parentage or handicap, has been personally knitted together by God in the womb.** All the days of his life have been planned out by God before any have taken place ([Psalm 139:16](#)).

Scripture says Mary "was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit." The angel told Joseph, "what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" ([Matthew 1:18-20](#)). **To be pregnant, even at the very earliest moments after conception, is to be with child,** not simply with what might become a child. Where did the incarnation take place? Where did God first "became flesh and dwell among us"? 99% of Christians will say "Bethlehem," but that is wrong. Christ became flesh when the Holy Spirit conceived a child in Mary—that was at *Nazareth*, nine months before she traveled to Bethlehem.

In light of the full humanity of the preborn child, we must do nothing to take his life ([Exodus 20:13](#)). Furthermore, we should do all in our power to protect his life ([Proverbs 24:11](#); [Proverbs 31:8-9](#)). Except in those cases where God has specifically delegated the right to take human life (e.g. capital punishment or defending the innocent), **God jealously maintains his sole prerogatives over human life and death** ([Deuteronomy 32:39](#); [1 Samuel 2:6](#)). To take that power into our hands is literally to play God.

Child sacrifice is condemned in Scripture. Only the most degraded societies tolerated this evil, and the worst of these defended and celebrated it as if it were a virtue. **Scripture condemns the shedding of innocent blood** ([Deuteronomy 19:10](#); [Proverbs 6:17](#); [Isaiah 1:15](#); [Jeremiah 22:17](#)). While the killing of all innocent human beings is detestable, the Bible regards the killing of defenseless children as particularly heinous ([Leviticus 18:21](#); [20:1-5](#); [Deuteronomy 12:31](#)). The prophets were outraged that some Jews sacrificed their children. They warned it would surely result in the devastating judgment of God on their society ([Jeremiah 7:30-34](#); [Ezekiel 16:20-21, 36-38](#); [20:31](#); compare [2 Kings 21:2-6, 16](#) with [2 Kings 24:3-4](#) and [Jeremiah 15:3-4](#)).