

Looking at Life in the Womb FOR **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

POSTER AND DRAWING PAGES Guide for Parents and Teachers

Opening prayer: Dear God, thank you for creating us and taking care of us. Be with us today as we learn how You care for us and love us, and about how You have saved us by sending Jesus to die on the cross for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HE GOAL for the beginning of life resources for children is to begin teaching about God's gift of life at an early age so they are prepared when facing a world that seeks to devalue the gift. It may seem like conversations about this should start later in education, but young children can begin absorbing and comprehending this information earlier than we realize! Teaching children that they are created by God as a boy or girl from the very moment of conception is foundational for a future understanding of not only how precious life is, but also who they are as God's children — created, saved and loved by Him. This poster and drawing sheet packet are intended to help foster those conversations.

Each drawing sheet matches one section of the poster. At the bottom of each drawing sheet is a short verse pertaining to the topic of the sheet. Listed below are more verses that can be used to talk about being created, saved and loved by God. Feel free to use these verses instead or post them around an area where children can see and learn them.

With each drawing sheet, have children draw what it means for them to be created, loved and saved by God. Use this time to let them be creative in showing you and discussing with you how they know this in their own life. When

children are done with each sheet, they can hang it up somewhere where they can see it and remind themselves that God created them.

Activities and suggested discussion points (prior to handing out the drawing sheets, use the poster to teach the following):

CREATED

God created each of you. He created you in a special place inside a mommy's tummy called a womb. When God first created you, before anyone else knew you were already on this earth as a very, very tiny baby, you were already a girl or boy.* God made you that way. He created your fingers, your toes — each and every part of you, He designed. He decided your hair color and gave you special gifts and talents.

LOVED

He created you so special because He loves you so, so much. He spent time and thought creating you. Have you ever created something you were proud of? Maybe you painted a beautiful picture, or you built something really cool out of blocks and you wanted to take a picture of your creation or hang it on the fridge because you were proud of it? That is how God feels about you. He loves the way He made you. You are His and you are special to Him. He loves you so much. There is nothing you could do to stop Him from loving you. He will always love you.

^{*} Gender/sex is determined and known by God at the exact time of conception (sperm-egg fusion). Gender/sex is not determined when external genitalia is pronounced via ultrasound, but rather from the very beginning. Even when a person was just a single cell, their DNA had all of the coding (outside from very rare pathology) that made them a boy or a girl.



SAVED

God loves all of the people that He creates and wants to live with them forever. But because of sin, we were separated from God and needed a savior. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby to grow up, teach people about God, and take away all of our sins by dying on the cross and rising again from the dead.

Jesus saved us from our sin. Now, we are not separated from God anymore.

We are given new life through BAPTISM. By faith, those who are in Jesus get to live with Him forever! Redeemed by Jesus Christ, we get to spend our lives in freedom, with our eyes open to care for other people.

Scripture passages to discuss and begin learning by heart:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (GEN. 1:27).

"Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature" (GEN. 2:7).

"For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

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" (PS. 139: 13–16).**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (JOHN 3:16).

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (JOHN 10:10).

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (JER. 1:5).

"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; 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" (IS. 46:3-4).

"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" (IS. 44:2).

On the topic of adoption:

Some families may or may not talk about adoption with an adopted child from the start. Many factors play into this, but it may be helpful to talk with a child that is struggling with understanding adoption by telling them that their biological mom is still a blessing because she conceived them and gave birth to them. Even if she couldn't raise the child, she is a blessing because she chose life.

Some children may be still trying to understand what adoption really is as a gift from God. Perhaps they were recently adopted, or even adopted from a different country, and have memories about their biological family or foster care. Every person involved in adoption has a different perspective of adoption — whether it be a struggle with the loss of language, culture, family, etc. or gaining a new family that they love immediately. It is important to recognize and not invalidate these feelings, and still emphasize that God has always loved them, and through Baptism, they are made part of God's family.

CHILDREN HAVE BEEN GIVEN the wonderful gift of curiosity! Their desire to explore and learn is bound to come with questions about topics that may catch you off guard, but in their mind, their questions are connected to the beginning of life. Perhaps they have family experience with adoption, miscarriage, divorce, etc. As parents and educators, it can be difficult and sometimes overwhelming to answer questions we don't have the answers to. In these situations, it is totally okay to admit you don't know! God has blessed us with faithful pastors and other trained and commissioned workers to help answer the hard questions. Please do not hesitate to ask them and use this as a learning opportunity for you and the children. For more resources on other life topics (i.e. adoption, family, gender), see *lcmslife.org*.

Closing Prayer: Dear God, thank you for creating me. Thank you for loving me always and no matter what. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for us and take away all of our sins, so that we may live with you forever. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

^{**} Some children may notice that not all bodies looks perfect or "wonderfully" made. Some children are born with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and yet God knows them, loves them, created them, has prepared them for good works and calls them beautiful and His own through the waters of Holy Baptism.



- I was CREATED

by God

"I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (PSALM 139:14).



- lam - love D

by God

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son" (JOHN 3:16).



- lam SAVED

by God

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (JOHN 10:10).

