

I Am a Child: Right, Gift or Problem?



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**“You formed my inmost being; you knit me in
my mother’s womb.”**

Ps 139:13

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“You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb.”

Ps 139:13



1 You're on a game show! It's like an obstacle course where you have to complete a series of tasks.



For one of the tasks, they offer you help from the audience. You have to choose between these three objects:

- A bomb, which symbolizes a **PROBLEM**.
- A nice **GIFT**.
- A parchment that symbolizes a **RIGHT**.

This object is like a wild card that will help you complete the next task. The host lets you know that you have only 30 seconds to choose the best object for you. None of the objects is a trap. Remember what each one represents.

Your time starts...NOW!

Which do you choose?



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Now, we invite you to make the object your own as you consider:
What would you rather be for others (your parents or friends): a
RIGHT, a **GIFT**, or a **PROBLEM**? _____

Which one of these would a **CHILD** be?

In this session we're going to delve into the amazing topic of the miracle of life. We've already discovered that each and every one of us is a **GIFT**. Life is a gift. We don't choose to be born in a certain place, or on a certain date. We are just born. It's a miracle! The birth of a child confers parenthood on a child's parents. It is their child who enables them to be a "mother" and "father".



We're going to address this topic delicately, always holding the highest respect for human life and dignity, which include the freedom of the other, their personal circumstances, etc.

We ask you, too, to be very tactful, and to not judge people, even though we **ARE** able to judge those **ACTIONS** that go against life, using our critical sense.



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2 Take a look at the images below:



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Which of these images do you think better represents the society that you live in?

Do you think there is a relationship between both images?



The society that is full of trash is the fruit of a society focused around CONSUMPTION and WELLBEING, of a culture that concentrates on what is fleeting and instant. We throw away whatever is left over. We don't take care of things or people. We don't fix what is broken. We get rid of everything that causes us pain, eliminate every suffering, and we look away so that things and people can't affect us.

We live in a society that's all about wellbeing - what's FLEETING and IMMEDIATE. BEAUTY is sold to us. We can only look at what is beautiful, pretty, or pleasant.

We are immersed in a culture where a very radical custom is held:
THE WORSHIP OF THE BODY.

The only ones who triumph are
the beautiful and the attractive.

And we look away whenever the
fragility of man, his very
humanity, makes an appearance.

But when we get rid of this human
fragility, we are also destroying human dignity.



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Venus de Milo. (Louvre Museum. Paris).

Keep in mind that the body is an expression of the person, and that the body is sexually differentiated: man or woman.

The greatness of motherhood is inscribed in the woman's body; this mystery of life is written in both her body and the male body, since there is no maternity without paternity.

Nonetheless, the culture of this society numbs this profound and true vision of the body, and ends up reducing it to an **OBJECT** of consumption, exchange, wellbeing, and rights.

The body is reduced to a **RIGHT TO DECIDE**.



The gift of paternity and maternity, as a fruit of love, is then also reduced to a **RIGHT** to choose:

- "I want to have a **CHILD**".
- "I don't want to have a **CHILD**".

In this way, the **CHILD**-person ceases to be a **GIFT**, and becomes a **PROBLEM** or a **RIGHT**.



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The Child as a RIGHT.

Lets' open the door!

What do we find?

Everything's ready!



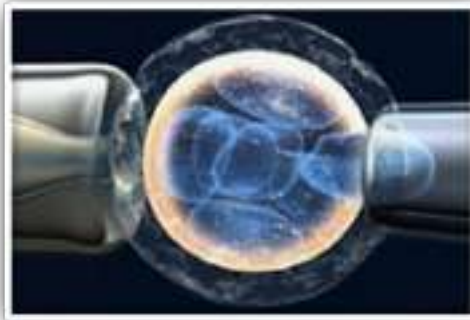
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies.
- Work table.
- Hospital bed.
- Exam lamp and connected apparatus.
- Surgical supplies.
- Instruments.
- Disposable supplies.
- Aids, nurses, doctors...

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3 In a single operating room, or in others with the same characteristics, 3 situations that we've already mentioned can take place. Next, we will show you three images. Indicate what each one corresponds to.



Is life treated the same way in each case? What about the person?

Did you know that there are clinics, with almost identical operating rooms, where some lives are aborted and others are "fabricated"?

What is happening?

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Do you believe that human beings are the origin of their own creation?

Can they destroy life?

Can they create life?

4 According to the World Health Organization, infertility is a health problem. We invite you to reflect on the following questions together with your classmates:

How do you think that a man and a woman deal with the reality of infertility?



Do you think that a man and a woman who love each other desire to give life and form a family?

If a man and a woman can't have children, do they stop loving each other?



Love is fruitful by its very nature. It gives life. The love between spouses lives on in their children. It continues on in them. "They are the consequence of love".

But some spouses without children also prolong their love. Not through their fertility, but through their FRUITFULNESS.

Don't you think that the life of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta was FRUITFUL?

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SEXUALITY



In previous sessions we have seen how there has been a separation between **SEXUALITY** and the **PERSON**, reducing the **PERSON** to an **OBJECT**. To this end, we often hear things like:

- "My body is mine".
- "Give life, donate your eggs".
- "I'm looking for a good sperm bank".
- "I'm looking to rent a womb".

There has been yet another separation between **SEXUALITY** and **PROCREATION**. My sexuality is no longer necessary to conceive a child. A good lab is enough.

When a child becomes a right, we are also separating love from sexuality and from one's own personal dignity. The maximum demonstration of love between a man and a woman is no longer necessary in order to give life. Children miss out on this beautiful and real identity that comes from being a **PRESENT (GIFT)** to their parents.

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The Child as a PROBLEM.

5 Do you believe that the arrival of a child is a problem in the following cases? Check "yes" or "no".

- Asthmatic father and mother with tuberculosis. They have four children: the first is blind, the second deaf, the third died and the fourth is ill with tuberculosis. The mother is pregnant again.



- A white man rapes a 13-year-old black girl and she becomes pregnant.



- An older woman becomes pregnant. She already has a son. Her husband is away at war. She is sick, and will soon die.



On the next page you will find out WHO is the face of each of these "supposed" PROBLEMS.

We will see faces that we recognize, lives who have given much fruit.

Behind each "PROBLEM" there is a PERSON.

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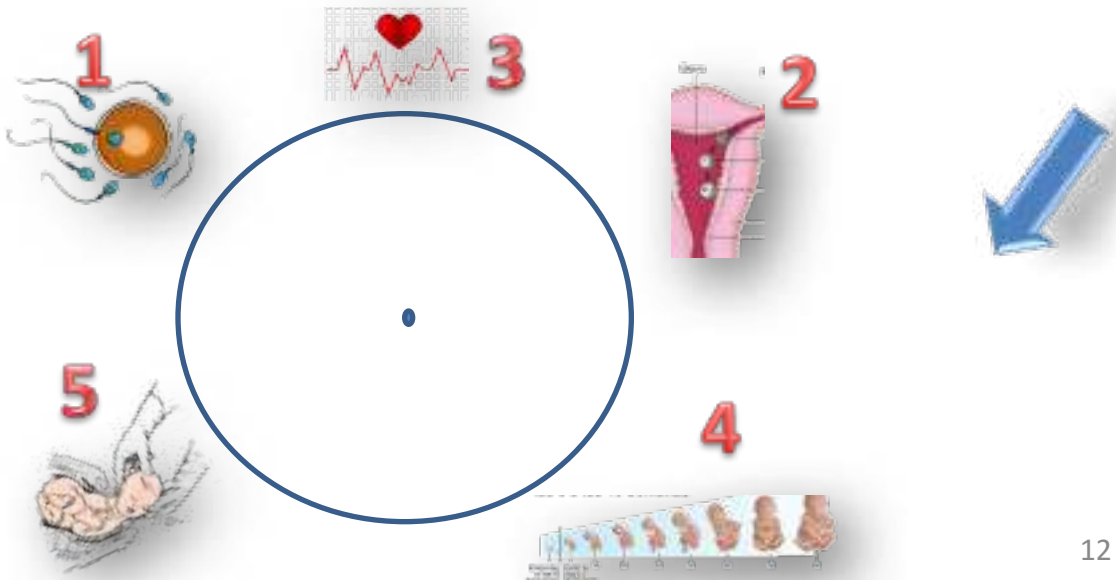
6 When does a PERSON become a PERSON? Watch this video, called "The Odyssey of Life".



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvr5UCDM9QI>

Below, you will see a diagram. Place the arrow where you consider the origin of life to be:

1. Fertilization.
2. Implantation in the uterus.
3. Appearance of heartbeat.
4. Another moment of embryonic development (be specific).
5. Birth.



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In the world that we live in, it seems like there are two sides to the same coin:

RIGHT TO LIFE or **RIGHT TO THE BODY**



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7 Now, get in groups and read the following statements that talk about RIGHTS and discuss who you think has each right: the mother, or the unborn child.

RIGHT TO THE FREE
DEVELOPMENT OF ONE'S
PERSONALITY

RIGHT TO THE FREE
DEVELOPMENT OF ONE'S
PERSONALITY

RIGHT TO LIFE

RIGHT TO LIFE

RIGHT TO MORAL
INTEGRITY

RIGHT TO MORAL
INTEGRITY

RIGHT TO NON-
DISCRIMINATION

RIGHT TO NON-
DISCRIMINATION

RIGHT TO PHYSICAL
INTEGRITY

RIGHT TO PHYSICAL
INTEGRITY

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

RIGHT TO PRIVACY




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RIGHT



RIGHT	
	

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Share with your classmates:

What conclusions did you reach?

Who has more rights: the unborn child or the mother?

Are any of the rights exclusive to the mother or the unborn child?

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My body is the expression of my person. And I am a sexually differentiated body. My sexuality begins at the moment of the union between an egg and a sperm: XX or XY. I don't reach sexual maturity until after puberty, but I am a sexually differentiated PERSON from conception until death.



My body, as I have already seen, also changes. It develops throughout my life, passing through different stages: embryonic stage, childhood, youth, adulthood and old age. And throughout each and every one of these stages I am a PERSON.

This is why my origin begins with the union of the gametes that carry within themselves ALL that I am, all that makes me unique and unrepeatable.

And my life is a gift. I AM a PRESENT, a GIFT, which always comes from ANOTHER. As much as I might want to add another minute onto my life, it doesn't depend on me. I am not the origin of my own life. Life is given. The origin of life lies in the one who has created us.

Life is given to me to enjoy, respect, and care for. Or would I throw a gift into the trash?

Just like my life is a gift, so, too, are the lives of other people, and they deserve the same respect and care that my own life does.

Certain situations in life lead us to forget precisely this: that life is something that is given, that it is a gift, that it must be cared for and respected.

The life of the other becomes a PROBLEM, and the society that we live in leads us to ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM instead of FACING IT.

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8 Below you will find the true story of a woman who was led by her circumstances and society to “eliminate her problem”.

I have been pregnant twice. The first pregnancy ended in abortion; the second, with a little girl. Regarding the first, the “typical” thing happened. I was with my boyfriend. And what happened was what happens when you have sexual relations, you can get pregnant..., and he says that we should leave children for further down the road, that we’re young now. We were already in a bad place. We were in a really bad place, and I couldn’t imagine what was going to happen later.... I found out how far along I was from a pregnancy test that I bought at the drug store. I was happy about my pregnancy, but I knew he didn’t want to have the baby. He told me,

“Lucía, we’re young, there’s a lot of time”.
He would add other things, like,
“If you have the baby now, I’m going to leave you”. A sort of threat.
I didn’t have anybody I trusted anymore,
I didn’t have friends, I didn’t have anyone.
I just had him, and if he left me...



I was tied to him. I was tied to him financially, but I was also madly in love with him. Finally he convinced me, and I was pretty hard to convince. He was caring, like he never usually was, and would do things he never did before: little kisses, more frequent signs of affection...

He would say that we didn’t have money. He would complain all day about how we didn’t have the means, but once he found out I was pregnant he already had all the money ready for the abortion. He paid \$240 at a clinic for them to perform an abortion on me. I was alone, I couldn’t find any help. He had a relationship with his family, but I didn’t.

I went to the abortion totally drunk..., because I didn’t want to do it. I was really very pressured... The day that I went they did everything: ultrasound, psychiatric visit, and then the gynecologist did it. No one offered me alternatives to abortion or told me that I was going to suffer because of it later. I found out now that by law I had the right to know the repercussions and the consequences that I might have, but no one ever told me anything about them. Why?

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They performed the abortion using the aspiration method. With the aspirator it's like they're tearing out a piece of you...

You feel that they're ripping out part of your body.

It's horrible! After the abortion I had a lot of anxiety. I started to drink alcohol, I started to be very depressed.

When I see a 4 year-old child I can't help but cry. That's the age my son would be if he were alive...

I suffer a lot on the anniversary of the abortion and on the day that he would have been born. I tried to kill myself once. My other pregnancy was precisely because of the remorse that I had, searching, thinking that it would make up for it. My boyfriend and I were in a really bad place. Finally, we left each other. During my second pregnancy, I dreamed that they were taking my daughter away. Every day I would dream that the police were coming and taking her, that I wasn't worthy of having her. I was taking sedatives during my pregnancy to relax me. When she was born, she had some withdrawal symptoms. Now I need to take pills to sleep.

I was an atheist and very "feminist". I only looked at things from the perspective of the woman. It's a false and partial point of view. Not anymore. Now I see the child.

I don't want to try to forget the abortion that I committed; it's something that's there, and I take responsibility for it. I don't want to take away its importance. It's like if someone kills someone and then after four years in jail everything's okay again. We have to make reparation and continue looking forward, but own up to the fact that you've done things wrong. Abortion is a very bad thing for the woman.

I believe that I was responsible for this mistake, but I had a very small margin for choice. When I look at it now...I believe that I really didn't have sufficient freedom to choose what was best for me. There was no time to lose and with so much pressure from my boyfriend...and the lack of help from the doctors in these abortion clinics...When they saw that I had come to the abortion totally drunk they should have realized that I didn't really want to do it. These doctors killed my son and made me the accomplice to something terrible...something that I regret. I ask the whole world to not allow for this to continue to be done. Abortion doesn't solve anything, it is just one more problem. Moreover, they made a business out of me and my deceased son."

Lucía



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Do you think that Lucía wanted to have her son?

Did the sexual act with her boyfriend have consequences?

What brought her to abort?

Did the abortion have consequences for her life? What were they?

Did she regret the abortion?

Do you think that if someone had been there to support her, Lucía would have continued her pregnancy?

9 There are also courageous and responsible people who say YES to life. Many organizations, foundations and non-profits that defend life help women who feel desperate and led toward abortion, and open new horizons for them.



10 Let's listen to a song!

CUANDO TENÍA QUE JUGAR (17 primaveras) <http://bit.ly/2arzEBI>

*Diecisiete primaveras las que su corazón llevaba,
todo un mundo de ilusiones le iluminaban la cara,
todo se le vino abajo o por lo menos eso pensaba,
cuando llegó la noticia de que estaba embarazada.
Pero tu fuiste valiente porque pasaste de la gente...*

ESTRIBILLO

*Cuando tenia que jugar,
cambiaste las muñecas por un niño de verdad,
tuviste el coraje de afrontar la realidad,
y fue tu recompensa el que te llamara mamá.*

*No sé cómo conseguiste explicárselo a tus padres,
porque sé que los de ahora no son como los de antes,
que los tiempos han cambiado, que todo es diferente,
no se escuchan tonterías, el que dirán de la gente.
Pero tu fuiste valiente porque pasaste de la gente...*

ESTRIBILLO

*No quisiera decirte que siempre me sentí orgullosa,
desearía la que soy la más bonita y más hermosa,
por ser madre y compañera, por ser valiente entre valientes,
quiero que escuches esta letra y ver lo que mi alma siente.
Ay, pero... tú fuiste valiente porque pasaste de la gente..,*

11 To conclude, we invite you to watch this TESTIMONIAL with your classmates, and to think about this question:



Is there something that you can do, too?