

Every Life Matters

For teens ages 12–14 · about 45–60 minutes · Moral Issues for Teens · Culture, Life & Christian Witness · game **Sacred or Disposable?** · built on **Psalm 139:13–16, Exodus 20:13, and Jeremiah 1:5**

Your students hear that abortion is a private choice, a healthcare right, and nobody else's business. Social media, classroom debates, and even family conversations can treat unborn life as optional while calling Christians backward or cruel. Some know a friend, cousin, or sibling affected by abortion. Some carry quiet questions they have never voiced. This session is dignified and hope-filled: God forms life in the womb, every person bears His image, legal is not the same as lawful, and compassion belongs to teens who want to stand on Scripture without cruelty or graphic detail.

Before you teach anything, pray.

Assume someone in the room has a family member who chose abortion, has heard harsh arguments on both sides, or feels afraid to ask honest questions. Ask the Spirit for tenderness and courage. You are not running a political rally — you are handing students truth they can love people with. No graphic descriptions, no shaming students who stay silent, no public pressure to disclose. Have a same-gender leader ready for private follow-up and know local resources for crisis pregnancy support if a student needs help.

The heart of the lesson

God is the author of life. Before anyone can detect a heartbeat, the Lord is already knitting that child together (Psalm 139:13–16; Job 10:8–12). Jeremiah 1:5 says God knew him before he was formed in the womb. Scripture uses the same words for unborn and born children — *babe* and *child* — in Luke 1:41–44 when Elizabeth's baby leaped, and in Exodus 21:22–23 when harm to a mother and her unborn child is treated with grave seriousness. Life is not a clump of cells one moment and a person the next; God has been at work from the start.

Legal is not the same as lawful — every life is God's workmanship.

Society may call something legal while God's Word still calls it sin. Herod's marriage was legal in his culture; John still called it unlawful (Mark 6:18). When human law and divine law clash, Christians obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Exodus 20:13 and Genesis 9:6 forbid taking innocent human life because people are made in God's image. Abortion may be common and culturally approved, but popularity does not rewrite the Sixth Commandment. Romans 12:2 warns against letting the crowd shape your conscience instead of Scripture.

Stand for life — and stand beside the hurting with hope.

PSALM 139:13–16

"For you **formed my inward parts**; you knitted me together in my mother's womb... I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

EXODUS 20:13

"You shall **not murder**."

How the session flows

- 1 Name the pressure.** What is culture teaching about unborn life and Christian witness? ~8 min
- 2 Teach every life matters.** Womb, image of God, legal vs. lawful, God's command. ~12 min
- 3 Play the game.** "Sacred or Disposable?" two-team showdown on screen. ~12–15 min
- 4 Quiet honesty.** Reference card, filled in privately. ~5 min
- 5 Worksheet.** In class or take-home reinforcement. ~15 min
- 6 Close with hope.** Prayer, compassion, courage to witness. ~8 min

You'll want a screen for the game, printed reference cards and worksheets, pens, and leaders prepared to answer sensitive questions with dignity — truth without cruelty, compassion without calling sin good.

Leading it, part by part

Name the pressure

Start where they live. Ask: what messages do you hear about abortion, choice, and being a "good person"? (My body my choice, the Bible is outdated, Christians hate women, it's none of your business.) Let them talk briefly without forcing anyone to share personal stories. Land this: culture often treats unborn life as *disposable* when it is inconvenient. God treats every life as *sacred* — His workmanship, known before birth. Teens can learn to think biblically without becoming bullies.

Teach every life matters

Walk through four layers. **Creator:** read Psalm 139:13–16 and Job 10:8–12 — God forms, knits, and gives breath; life in the womb is not an accident. **Same name:** Luke 1:41–44 — Elizabeth's *babe* leaped; unborn John is a person Scripture celebrates. Exodus 21:22–23 treats harm to mother and child with equal gravity. **Command:** Exodus 20:13; Genesis 9:6 — innocent life is protected because humans bear God's image. **Witness:** Acts 5:29 — when human law demands disobedience to God, we obey God; legal and lawful are not the same word.

Address common teen arguments age-appropriately: "It's just tissue" — Scripture and science both point to a developing human life, not disposable material. "Everyone agrees" — Romans 12:2 and Revelation 21:8 remind us that popular opinion and eternal truth are not the same. Psalm 127:3–5 calls children a heritage and reward, not a burden to erase.

Offer compassion: if a student knows someone who had an abortion — a friend, relative, or parent — they are not asked to gossip or judge. God still loves the hurting. Hope and forgiveness are real in Christ for those who repent. Your job in class is to teach truth and model kindness toward people, not to attack people.

Play the game

Split into two teams — default names **TEAM SACRED** and **TEAM LIFE** — and run "Sacred or Disposable?" twelve to fifteen minutes. Round 1 sorts attitudes that honor God's workmanship from ones that treat life as disposable; Round 2 drills key verses; Round 3 handles real pressure at school with compassion; Round 4 locks in the memorable line. Bridge back: every round asked the same thing — will you treat life as sacred because God made it, or disposable because culture says so?

Quiet honesty

Hand out the reference card. Promise plainly that nobody is collecting it. Five quiet minutes to circle, check boxes, and write. Some students are deciding how they will respond before the next hallway debate. Protect that moment with silence and zero commentary walking the aisles.

Worksheet

Structured practice — verse lookups, sacred vs. disposable sorting, one scenario response, one action for the week. Good for pairs or take-home. The reference card addressed the heart; the worksheet reinforces Scripture.

Close with hope

Invite students to memorize the memorable line: legal is not the same as lawful — every life is God's workmanship. Pray for courage when friends pressure them to treat unborn life as disposable, for compassion toward anyone hurting from this issue, and for leaders and churches to reflect both truth and tenderness. Offer yourself and other leaders as safe adults afterward. Make the standard clear: God forms life, forbids killing the innocent, and still offers hope to the broken.

Take it further

- What is the difference between something being legal in society and lawful according to God's Word? (Mark 6:18; Acts 5:29)
- What does Psalm 139:13–16 teach about who forms life in the womb?
- How does Luke 1:41–44 show that unborn children are treated as real persons in Scripture?
- What does Exodus 20:13 command about the value of human life?
- Why is taking innocent human life so serious in God's eyes? (Gen. 9:6)
- What does Jeremiah 1:5 reveal about God's knowledge of a person before birth?
- Why is following popular opinion dangerous for Christians on moral issues? (Rom. 12:2)
- How can you stand for sacred life while still showing compassion to someone who is hurting?

A final word

Teach the truth without graphic detail and without turning truth into a weapon. Your teens will face this in a specific moment — a classroom debate, a social post, a friend confiding fear, or a family argument they cannot escape. Give them Scripture, give them the game, give them the card, and trust the Spirit to make *sacred* sound not cruel but *courageous* — and *compassion* sound not like compromise but like Christ, who spoke truth and still drew the wounded to Himself.