

**Title:** The Great Debate - Is Abortion Moral?

**Lesson Number:** 11

**Theme:** Life is Precious

**Sub-Theme:** Pro-Life verses Pro-Choice Issues

**Grades:** 7 to 12

**Subject:** Health / Religion / English

**Time:** 6 Hours

**Alberta Catholic Schools Learner Outcome:**

- W-9.13A The student will explore our Catholic teaching that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. (Grade 9)
- P13 *investigate how science, technology and media affect wellness*
  - Key Concept: Well-Informed Conscience
  - Question: Can I explain both sides of an issue and choose that which is more life-giving?



**Lesson Objective: (Depends on Grade Level and Subject)**

- To learn how to stand up for what you believe in.
- Research Skills

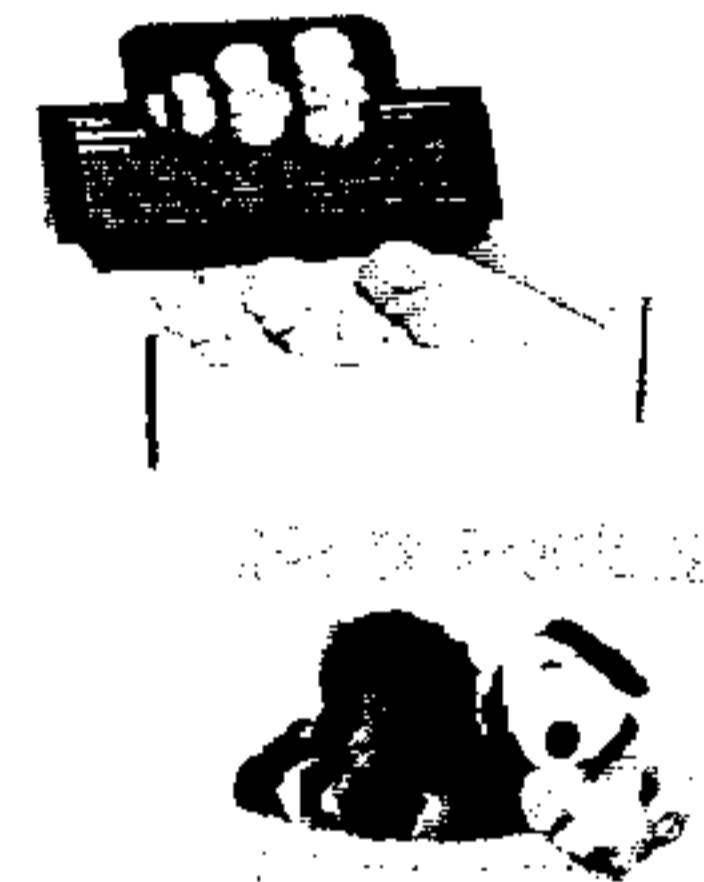
**Materials**

Provided:

- Poster - *Life is Precious/ The Future is in Our Hands/ Every Fourth Baby Dies From Abortion*
- Fetal Models for display
- Bible

Not provided:

- T.V. and DVD player
- Computer time - for research



**Anticipatory Set/ Motivation:**

- Have the students discuss the following questions as a class / in groups or in partners.
  - What qualities does a good friend have?
  - What qualities does a good witness have?

**Procedure:**

1. Check to see that all students have their permission form signed in order to participate in the lesson.
2. Explain to the students that they need to take special care of the material because they will be used again for other classes.
3. Pray for the lesson.
4. Explain to the students that they will have a class debate over the question- *Is Abortion Moral?*
5. Split the class into 2 groups. One group will take the Pro-Life side and the other group will take the Pro-Choice side. Explain to the students the importance of knowing both sides of the argument.

6. Talk to the students about the following verse: 1 Peter 3:15 (New International Version)  
But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...
7. Hand-out the brochure, "The Christian View of Abortion" and read it over with the class.
8. Remind the students to refer to the other lessons they have taken to review their notes and arguments against abortion (especially the lesson- Pro-Life 101).
9. (1-2 classes) Give the students computer time to research the Pro-Choice side on the internet. Encourage the students to look for images, personal testimonies, and statistics to support their arguments.
10. (2 classes) Once the students have finished their research have them put together their arguments. They will need to have: an opening argument, witnesses, evidence and an closing argument.
11. (1-2 classes) Begin the debate.

**Closure:**

- Ask the students if they can choose which argument is more life giving.
- Talk to the students about the Poster, "The Future is in Your Hands." Ask the students what this poster means to them.
- Give time for the students to write out questions for the question box.

**Assessments:**

- Discussion questions
- Journal responses

**Question Box**  
**Theme: Life is Precious**  
**Sub-Theme: Pro-Life verses Pro-Choice Issues**

Lesson Title: \_\_\_\_\_

What have you **learned** or **found interesting** about this lesson?

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What **question(s)** do you have about this lesson / topic?

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