Teacher’s Guide

Life Is Precious

SCHOOL EDITION FOR GRADES K-2

Picture Book Unit Study

*Life Is Precious* is part of ALL’s Life Primer primary school supplements, which are intended for children in grades K-3. Life Primer supplements provide students with an early understanding of the value of human life from the very beginning. These specially formulated supplements guide teachers and students through popular picture books with life-affirming themes as well as provide appropriate creative activities to assist student learning.

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Appendix A

Miracle of Life Flipbook Baby Images
Miracle of Life
Appendix B

Miracle of Life Flipbook Fruit Images
Appendix C

Miracle of Life Timeline
The Miracle of Life

December

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

— Jeremiah 1:5
First Trimester

In the first few days of life, the baby doubles, triples, and quadruples in size!

and bigger!

and bigger, and bigger, and bigger, and grows bigger,

Baby starts very small

Day 24

The baby’s heart begins to beat.

January
February

8 Weeks

The baby has fingerprints, toes, and all of her organs.

First Trimester

Day 43

The earliest that scientists have recorded a baby’s brainwaves.
First Trimester

The baby is now 1 1/2 inches long.

Week 11
The baby now has fingernails and can smile.

Week 12
The baby can move her thumbs.

March
The baby jumps around and does somersaults.

4 Months

The baby keeps growing and at four months, baby is about as big as an avocado.
Second Trimester

5 Months

Loud sounds can frighten the baby.

The baby is about as long as a banana.

May
Second Trimester

June

6 Months

The baby begins to grow hair and eyelashes.

At six months, she is the size of a cantaloupe.

The baby keeps growing.
Third Trimester

In the third trimester, the baby focuses on gaining weight and growing in size.

7 Months
The baby’s eyes open and close.

July
Third Trimester

8 Months

The baby is feeling cramped. Only one month to go!
Birth

At nine months, the baby is ready to be born!
Appendix D

Human Development Timeline
“A person’s a person no matter how small.” —Dr. Seuss

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.” —Jeremiah 1:5
Appendix E

Take-Home Sheets
Dear Parents,

Today we started reading a book called *The Baby Sister* by Tomie dePaola. We learned about Tommy and how excited he is for the birth of his baby sister. Tomie dePaola’s book wonderfully illustrates that life is truly precious. Over the next few days, we will use *The Baby Sister* to teach your children about the beauty of preborn babies. The children will make a book entitled The Miracle of Life, which features select stages of a preborn baby’s development to help them understand the intrinsic value of all human beings, from the very young to the very old.

Today we learned about when a preborn baby’s heart starts beating and looked at how tiny a preborn baby is at that young age. We started making our Miracle of Life books, which look at images of a preborn baby’s development.

We read the Bible verse about how God has a plan for each of us: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you” — Jeremiah 1:5.

We will discuss *The Baby Sister* and the beauty of human development for the rest of the week. Each day, the children will add stages of human development to their Miracle of Life book project.

Ask your child about the story. Remind your child that he/she is a beautiful gift from God. Your child may have many questions about a preborn baby’s life. Take some time to talk with your child about what he/she learned in class today.

Thank you for helping to reinforce the beauty of preborn life at home.

God bless,
Dear Parents,

Today, we continued our discussion of *The Baby Sister* by talking about the second trimester of human development. In our Miracle of Life book project, we completed pages three and four, which feature two stages of a preborn baby’s development from the second trimester of pregnancy. The children learned that a baby has to practice breathing, sleeping, and smiling to prepare for life in the outside world. We talked about how preborn babies need care and protection.

Ask your child to explain the craft project and a little bit about what he/she learned in class. Why do preborn babies need protection? Remind your child that God has a special plan for all of us.

We read a Bible verse about the value of children and the mystery of the gift of life from God: “Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these’” — Matthew 19:14.

We talked about the need to protect babies and little children and teach them how to be close to Jesus. We also talked about how parents love their children and help them to reach their heavenly goal by learning to pray and forming a relationship with Jesus.

Thank you for helping to reinforce the beauty of preborn life at home.

God bless,
Day 3: *The Baby Sister* Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

Today we talked about the third trimester of human development. The children learned about how preborn babies start growing hair and eyelashes while they are still developing inside their mom. The children completed page 5 and the cover of their book.

We talked about what a mother/grandmother does for children. We reinforced how dads are also important to family life and take on a caring role in the home, just as Tommy’s dad did in *The Baby Sister*.

Ask your child about the story and the craft project for the day. Remind your child that God made him/her in His image to be unique and unrepeatable (“There will never be another you!”).

Today’s Bible verse focused on obedience and the role of children in the family. Ephesians 6:1–3 says, “Children, obey your parents [in the Lord], for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother.’ This is the first commandment with a promise, ‘that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth.’” Ask your child what chores he/she does in the family and what he/she is expected to do as part of your family.

Talk about obedience with your child to help him/her understand that the love parents have for their children mirrors the love of God for His children. God set down certain rules for us (the Ten Commandments) because He loves us and wants us to be happy. Likewise, parents have rules for their children created out of love and concern for the family.

Thank you for helping to reinforce the beauty of preborn life at home.

God bless,
Day 4: The Baby Sister Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

Today we completed our week-long discussion of The Baby Sister as we discovered the beauty of birth. The children watched American Life League’s Baby Steps video, showing 16 different stages of a preborn baby’s development. The children learned that human beings, from their very beginning, constantly grow and develop and that birth is just another milestone in human development. We marveled at the gift of life that each of us has received from God.

Ask your child about the story and the video that we watched in class today. Remind your child that God gave him/her unique talents that no one else has. Your child may have many questions about life before and after a baby’s birth.

Today’s Bible verses marveled at the hand of God in each of our lives.

Sirach 50:22 — And now, bless the God of all, who has done wonders on earth; Who fosters growth from the womb, fashioning it according to his will!

Ecclesiastes 11:5 — Just as you do not know how the life breath enters the human frame in the mother’s womb, So you do not know the work of God, who is working in everything.

Human beings, from their very beginning, are a very special gift from God, Who creates each person with a unique purpose and vocation. While we can’t always see God’s plan, He is in control and He desires our happiness. And He longs for us to be with Him forever in heaven.

Thank you for helping to reinforce the beauty of preborn life at home.

God bless,
Day 1: *On the Night You Were Born* Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

This week we are reading the story *On the Night You Were Born* by Nancy Tillman.

Tillman’s book reminds children of their uniqueness. It is a wonderfully fantastical book about how all creation rejoiced on the night each of us was born.

Each child will make a book about the night he/she was born. This will be sent home at the end of the week.

We talked about the following Bible verses:

> “I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know.” — Psalm 139:14

> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.” — Jeremiah 1:5

We discussed how it’s absolutely amazing that God created us. No one else can do that. No one else can create a human being. And He did it because He loves us and wants us to live forever with Him in heaven. In the first verse, the word wonderful is really an expression of King David’s absolute amazement and wonder at the power of God.

**Homework for today:**

- Talk to your child this evening about how he/she got his name. Was he/she named after someone? How did you choose the name? This will help your child be able to be a part of classroom discussion tomorrow.

- Help your child cut out some images from magazines, newspapers, etc., that describe him/her and the things he/she likes. These will be used to create a collage tomorrow.

Thank you!
Day 2: *On the Night You Were Born* Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

Today, after we read *On the Night You Were Born*, we talked about how each one of us is unique. We discussed the different personality traits which make us unique and special and we used this information to help work on our books.

We talked about how every single person is special because he or she was created in the image and likeness of God. No one exactly like you has ever been created or will ever be created. God has a special plan for each and every one of us. Doesn’t it make sense that He would make unique people to fulfill His special plan?

We also talked about how we are all the same in some ways. Every person has a unique personality, but we are all people. We are all so similar, and yet so different.

Tomorrow we will continue our project. Thank you for your help!

God bless,
Dear Parents,

Today we again read *On the Night You Were Born*. We also worked on our weeklong project.

We talked about how we were specially created by God. We can never become “un-special.” Every person is a unique treasure to be guarded and protected.

We talked about God and why we should be thankful to Him for creating us. We made a thank-you page for Him in our book.

We talked about all of the wonderfully marvelous things He created to make our lives here on Earth enjoyable. We talked about family and friends and everything that makes us thankful.

Make sure to ask your child about today. Tell him/her some of the things you are thankful to God for as well.

God bless,
Dear Parents,

Today we finished our study of the book *On the Night You Were Born*. We used our imaginations to try to figure out what different animals did on the night we were born. Then we decorated the last page of our books with our favorite animals.

We talked about the word miracle and what it means. Webster defines miracle as “a wonderful event believed to be caused by the power of God.” We talked about how each one of us is a miracle—handcrafted by God and loved beyond measure.

We talked about how, when we were first created, we were no bigger than a poppy seed, but we were loved beyond measure even then. And now we are growing both physically and in God’s love and grace.

The children all worked very hard on their books. Make sure to spend some time looking through their finished work with them and marveling about the wonderful night they were born.

Thank you for your help this week in reminding your children that each and every one of them is a precious miracle.

God bless,
Day 1: *Horton Hears a Who* Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

Today we began reading *Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss. Though perhaps not intended by the author, *Horton Hears a Who* offers valuable lessons about the dignity of even very small persons (like the preborn) and the importance of protecting them.

We colored a timeline of human development and talked about how a person at his or her embryonic stage of development is just as important as the person who is labeled a teenager or an adult.

It is important for young children to become familiar with terms like embryo and fetus and identify them with their own humanity. That way, when they are older and confronted with arguments like “It’s just an embryo—what’s the big deal in aborting an embryo?” they will remember that they were indeed once an embryo themselves. It’s simply a stage of human development. Planting these seeds now and letting the Holy Spirit water them will serve our children well in the future.

We talked about how, no matter where you live or what your abilities are, your life is valuable. We should not be judged, nor should we judge others based on their height, weight, appearance, physical limitations, or anything else. And we applied to the preborn baby that beautiful saying of Dr. Seuss: “A person’s a person, no matter how small.”

As a class, we will be collecting baby items to deliver to a local pregnancy care center. If you can, please help your child buy or collect a few items to donate and send them into class this week.

God bless,
Dear Parents,

Today we continued our study of *Horton Hears a Who*. We talked about how Horton protected the little people on the speck, even though he couldn’t see them. We discussed how you cannot see a baby before he is born, but that does not make him not real. Finally, we talked about the importance of standing up for those who are smaller than we are. Horton felt it important to protect the Whos because he was bigger than they were, and he knew they needed protection. He was willing to risk everything to make sure they were safe, even if people laughed at him or made fun of him.

Please remember to send in a few baby items with your child this week! Thank you for your help!

God bless,
Day 3: *Horton Hears a Who* Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

Today we made Beezle-Nut Stew and enjoyed our snack while we listened to *Horton Hears a Who*.

We learned that Horton was loyal to the Whos, even when his friends called him a fool and laughed at him. He helps us see the meaning of loving our neighbor. He hears the mayor of Who-ville’s cry for help and is convinced that the Whos exist, even though his friends don’t think so. Horton shows us that it is important not to back down on something you believe in, no matter what anyone else says.

We talked about what it means for us to be loyal and how we can practice loyalty to God, family, and friends. We discussed ways that we could show love to our neighbor.

Finally, we learned two Bible verses which fit into our discussion of Horton’s loyalty to the Whos:

“So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
—1 Corinthians 13:13

“One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, ‘Which is the first of all the commandments?’ Jesus replied, ‘The first is this: “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’” — Mark 12:28-31

*If you haven’t sent in your baby items, please do so tomorrow. Thank you!*

God bless,
Day 4: *Horton Hears a Who* Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

Today we finished our study of *Horton Hears a Who*. We focused on the end of the story, where little Jo-Jo’s “yopp” is the very thing that saves all of Who-ville. Without Jo-Jo, the Whos would have been doomed. We talked about the importance of using our voices to stand up for what is right. Our voices can help us to show love and honor God. And every one of us is important. Sometimes it takes just one voice to change the world!

Finally, we talked about using our voices to stand up for people who need our protection and help.

**We put our baby items together to get them ready for delivery to the pregnancy care center. Thank you for your help!**

God bless,
Dear Parents,

Today we began a study on the book One by Kathryn Otoshi. She cleverly brings up the subject of bullying and the need to protect other people. When Red picks on Blue, all the other colors ignore it, until Red starts picking on them. One saves them all and teaches the colors to stand up for the weaker colors, even if they are only one. Everyone counts, especially when it comes to stopping violence against others.

As we read this book throughout the week, we will learn important lessons about standing up for others. We will also focus on our unique talents and the importance of working together.

Today we made a color wheel and learned about primary and secondary colors. We did an exercise which showed us how important the colors are and how they help to make the Earth beautiful. We also talked about how unique each person in God’s creation is and how there never has been and never will be another like each of us. God needs us to use our unique talents and gifts to make this world a better place.

We will read this book once each day this week and do activities which will help us dig deeper into the lessons from the book.

God bless,
Dear Parents,

Today we continued our study of the book One. This led us to talk about bullies. In the story, Red is a bully and he picks on Blue. The other colors are too afraid of Red to stand up for Blue—until the very end.

We talked about how important it is to stand up for each other and to never make fun of each other or leave people out. We talked about how in God’s eyes we are all equally important and special and how, even though we all look and act different, we all deserve to be loved and respected.

Ask your child about the story and see if he/she can retell it to you. It’s a very short and simple story, so he/she should be able to recall most of it.

God bless,
Day 3: One Take-Home Sheet

Dear Parents,

Today we talked about the hero in the story One. The hero is One, who comes along and sees that Red is picking on Blue and decides to do something about it.

One was very brave, and we talked about how we can be brave too. There are many ways. For instance, standing up for others is brave. Eating all of your vegetables, without complaining, can be brave. Doing what is right, even when it’s difficult, is one of the best ways to be brave.

We made a bookmark that shows all of the characters from the story. Take a look at your child’s bookmark and ask him/her to explain the characters.

God bless,
Dear Parents,

Today we finished our study of the book *One*. At the end of the book, forgiveness is the main theme, so we talked about how important it is to forgive. We discussed how thankful we are to God for forgiving us when we do not follow Him and how important it is to show that same love and forgiveness to others. We learned the word mercy and talked about how we can apply that word to our lives when we are young.

We discussed the following Bible verses as they relate to forgiveness:

“If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.”
— Matthew 6:14

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” — Colossians 3:12–13

We also made puppets out of the characters from *One*. Ask your child to act out the story for you with his/her puppets.

Thank you for helping to reinforce the concepts in this unit study at home.

God bless,