

Sample LIFEtalk

(good for any audience)

Props Needed: \$20 bill, pic of 8 week old fetus, Baby Samuel pic

So who knows what the culture of death includes?

[Ask around again. . .] The answers you should hear from the audience are: euthanasia, suicide, embryonic stem cell research, and abortion.

Those are some great answers, guys. *[If they missed one make sure to list it for them]*, but today we are going to focus on abortion because with 3,300 abortions each day in the U.S. alone, it has the greatest effect on our society.

Facts about Abortion

That's right -- each day around 3,300 abortions occur. *[Repeat and say slowly and emphatically to make an impact]* 3,300. That accounts for 1.2 million babies per year. Since 1973 almost 45 million babies have been killed.ⁱ Every 26 seconds a baby is aborted. 1 in 5 pregnancies end in abortion.ⁱⁱ You get the idea . . . there have been a lot of abortions since its legalization in 1973.

Is abortion legal through all nine months of pregnancy?

Yes. On January 22, 1973 the United States Supreme Court delivered their opinions in two landmark cases that would make abortion legal in the United States. *Roe v. Wade*ⁱⁱⁱ and *Doe v. Bolton*^{iv} basically made unlimited abortion available for **any reason for all nine months** of pregnancy.

Why do women have abortions?

Those who support abortion want us to believe that we need abortion for cases of rape or incest or for fetal abnormalities when, in fact, the statistics show that the number one reason for abortion is as a means of birth control – simply because the mother doesn't want the baby. The truth is that:

- Less than 1% of abortions are because of cases of rape.^v
- Only 3% are because the baby has a possible health problem^{vi}

- And 4% are because the mother has a health problem^{vii}

Occasionally, the abortion does not go as planned and the baby survives being aborted. Many, even though they were born alive, were left to die. Today, legislation has passed the Born Alive Infant Protection Act – to protect all babies born alive after an induced abortion.

Because 86% of abortions are performed during the first trimester (AGI/CDC)^{viii}, let's find out some of the things the fetus is able to do in the womb during this time:

Prenatal Development

At six weeks from fertilization the brain emits waves which register on an EEG – which is the legal standard for determining if someone is alive after birth. Also the heartbeat can be heard.

At seven weeks fingers and toes are distinctly separate and knee joints are present.

At eight weeks the nervous system develops and the fetus can even feel pain. 90% of structures found in an adult human being can be found in an eight week, one inch and a half long embryo.

[Hold up picture provided by PPL] Does this look like a blob of tissue? This is an eight week old person. This person has arms and legs, fingers and toes, eyes, a brain, and a beating heart [Point to parts]. Here pass this around and see for yourself. [Pass picture to audience].

At nine weeks the fetus in this picture will be able to close his eyes and suck his thumb.

At ten weeks he will have a unique trait that may interest the FBI someday – fingerprints!^{ix}

Is all life of equal value?

Yes. All life has the same value given by God and there's no price tag that can ever match that value. All life is precious and dignified. To demonstrate, I have a 20 dollar bill. Who would like this \$20? [*Wave it around so the audience sees it – after the audience raises their hands continue*] Of course you would, it's \$20.

[*If the speaker is a guy*] Guys, you could go to Best Buy and get some DVD's or CD's. Girls you could go buy whatever girls buy with \$20.

[*If the speaker is a girl*] Girls, you could go to the mall and buy clothes or jewelry. Guys you could go buy whatever guys buy with \$20.

Now I'm going to crumple this up into a very tiny ball of paper, who still wants this?

[*Again the audience will raise their hands*] Oh you still want it? How about if I throw this on the ground, stomp on it, and rub it into the carpet with my foot? [*Make sure to actually do this*] Pretty gross, huh? You don't know where my shoe has been and now this bill is all dirty. Who still wants it? [*Again the audience will raise their hands*] Of course you do. This bill has the same value no matter what condition it is in. Whether it's small like an unborn baby, wrinkled and old like an elderly person, or unclean or terminally ill, it still has the same value.

Philosophical - Disability

What if the unborn child might have a physical or mental disability? There are children of all ages, and adults too, who are alive today and are living through all manner of disease and disability. But these physical limitations don't make them any less human.

In America **more than 80%** of the babies diagnosed prenatally with Down Syndrome are aborted.^x That is shocking, especially to the American Association of People with Disabilities whose premise is that "disability is a natural part of the human experience."

Last year in October of 2008 *The Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act*^{xi} was passed and became public law. This new law provides resources for parents given a difficult diagnosis so that they will have the information they need to face tough decisions ahead. It will give these families information on support services. This new law has also created a national registry of families willing to adopt newborns with such conditions.^{xii}

But many times the pressure to abort handicapped babies is built largely on the mere "likelihood" that a child has some kind of disability. Often, the tests prove wrong, as in this story: In 1998 a young woman named Tracy Nichols was told that her baby would have Down Syndrome. Although it was hard news, Tracy decided to have her baby. When Tracy's daughter Cadence was born, she was perfectly healthy.^{xiii} Still, even if a child is born with a disability they end up living lives of joy and happiness. Suffering and hardship are not bad things but part of the human journey. It is not for us to decide who has a life worth living and who doesn't, and we certainly wouldn't want someone else making that decision for us.

Photographic Evidence

(If movie to be shown)

Right now I'm going to make it real to you. Why? Because every fact that we tell you and every statistic that we share with you isn't enough. Some can never truly grasp abortion and the effects of abortion if they can't see it with their own eyes. We are going to show this today with a video called *Victims of Choice*. This video shows babies before and after abortion and is very graphic. Why is this video important? Look at the Nazi Holocaust footage. Those videos weren't shown to manipulate students. The death camps represented an evil so great that words and lectures could not accurately describe it. The same is true about abortion. Until America sees it, we will not reject it. By making this movie short, 4 minutes, and eliminating narration we allow you to avoid the contents all together simply by looking away, closing your eyes, or coming with us in the hall. We hope you will watch because: ignorance sustained by denial is crippling this country into believing abortion is acceptable. Until you see what abortion does, you will never understand what abortion is. I would like to leave you with this thought: if something like this is so horrible to look at, then maybe we shouldn't be tolerating it. *[Ask the audience if anyone would like to leave and then start the video].*

(If movie not to be seen)

At this point we normally show a video called *Victims of Choice*. This video shows babies before and after abortion and is very graphic. We will not be showing this video to

you today but if you would like to obtain a copy of this video, please let us know. We can send you a free copy with your parent's permission. Why is this video important? Look at the Nazi Holocaust footage. Those videos weren't shown to manipulate students. The death camps represented an evil so great that words and lectures could not accurately describe it. The same is true about abortion. Until America sees it, we will not reject it. Ignorance sustained by denial is crippling this country into thinking that abortion is acceptable. If something like this is so horrible to look at then maybe we shouldn't be tolerating it.

YOUTH ARE BECOMING MORE PRO LIFE

Despite everything we as youth hear, we are becoming more pro-life! The anti-life media world of TV, movies, news, and music tries to sell us sex, drugs, alcohol, and violence. Immorality is portrayed as acceptable, but *we* know it isn't. We know immoral actions have negative consequences. We live in a society that tells us: Why believe in God? You can have anything you want, do anything you want and have no consequences. Abortion: Have sex with no consequences.

But despite all of this, we **ARE** becoming more pro-life! Every year the number of abortions in the United States declines. Today, teenagers and young adults are 40% less likely to have an abortion compared to youth 15 years ago (Alan Guttmacher Institute).^{xiv}

POLLS

Why are we becoming more pro-life? Because as youth, we are in the thick of it. We know what's going on! Most of us were born after January 22, 1973. We could have been legally killed. Our friends could have been killed. Our future spouses could have been killed. Abortion is legal and abortion is murder. Put those two together: legal murder!? We will never know the victims of abortion but we know that we have lost 1/4th of our generation: friends, classmates, teammates, and maybe even siblings.^{xv}

And that is why the youth are becoming more pro-life! We know abortion is wrong and we know that unborn children must have a right to life. A survey conducted by the New

York Times and CBS News showed that 67% of high school seniors believe abortion is morally wrong.^{xvi}

Abortion has affected our generation more than any other. First because our friends are dying and if this doesn't call us to action, the fact that YOU could have died and no one would have cared, SHOULD! Second we are growing up in a society saturated with the trash of violence, sex, drugs, and abortion. We deserve better!

TIME AND EXPERIENCE OF LEGALIZED ABORTION

The past 35 years has allowed us to see the effects of abortion on our society. We know that as of 2006, eight medical organizations recognize that abortion raises a woman's risk for breast cancer (Abortionbreastcancer.com). According to a study published in January 2006^{xvii}, women who had an abortion had the highest rates of mental health problems including depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviors, and substance use disorders compared to those who gave birth or never became pregnant. We know that abortion can lead to **Post-Abortion Stress Syndrome.**

TECHNOLOGY

Today, we have the technology which allows us to see pictures of the unborn as young as two months. We can even perform operations on unborn babies who are still in the womb. (**HOLD UP PICTURE of Baby Samuel**) Babies like baby Samuel, a 21 week old fetus who during surgery for spina bifida reached out his hand and squeezed his Dr's finger. (Pass the picture around)

Apologetics Section –

Why do we need apologetics? When we are in school or with our family or friends and something is said about abortion we are going to need to be able to defend the unborn. We will learn pro life answers to common pro abortion arguments. To do this we will split up into small groups, each group will take one LIFEtalk person with them and we will discuss common pro abortion arguments and ways to refute them.

How do you start?

We were just given some great ways we can respond to pro-abortion arguments. But how do you start? Start here in your youth group. Start with your friends. If they are your friends they will listen. Say something nice to that pregnant girl in your school. Spare one hour a month outside of an abortion clinic praying with a couple of your friends. Wear pro-life shirts. Pray! When you give a presentation in class about abortion pray to the Holy Spirit and you will receive him. Christ will be by your side as you speak. When you wear a pro-life t-shirt Christ will walk with you in a deeper way that day. He will defend you. When you are mocked, threatened, or called a lunatic remember this, “What so ever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters you did to me.” The unborn are most definitely the least among us: they have no voice, no money, no power, no right to live, and we can’t even see them. By giving them a voice we share in their tinyess. With love and admiration ring out the words of our former Holy Father: “Be not afraid... open wide the doors for Christ.”

(How to get involved)

I would now like to invite up the Project LIFEtalk team who are going to share with you ways that you can get involved in the pro-life movement.

Closing Prayer – Prayer of Commitment

ⁱ Guttmacher Institute, *Abortion in the United States: Incidence and Access to Services*, 2005. <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/4000608.pdf>>. 29 Jan. 2008.

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

^{iv} Doe v. Bolton 410 U.S. 179 (1973).

^v Guttmacher Institute. Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2005, 37(3): 110-118, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs.psrh/full/3711005.pdf>. 30 Jan. 2008.

^{vi} Ibid

^{vii} Ibid

^{viii} Abort 73.com. Facts about Abortion, “Abortion Statistics,” http://www.abort73.com/HTML/II-A-abortion_statistics.html. 15 Aug. 2008

^{ix} Abort73.com. Biological “Prenatal Development” <http://www.abort73.com/HTML/I-A-2-prenatal.html#>. 15 Aug. 2008

^x Will, George F. Eugenics by Abortion: Is perfection an Entitlement? *Washington Post* 14 April 2005 p. A27 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51671-2005Apr13.html>. 5 Sept. 2008 and Dannenfelser, Marjorie. Susan B. Anthony List “Legislation Action Alerts” <http://www.sba-list.org/c.ddJBKJNsFqG/b.4179747/siteapps/advocacy/ActionItem.aspx?aid=10454>. 5 Sept. 2008.

^{xi} GovTrack.us. S. 1810--110th Congress (2007): Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act, *GovTrack.us (database of federal legislation)* <<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-1810>> (accessed Dec 5, 2008)

^{xii} GovTrack.us. S. 1810--110th Congress (2007): Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act, *GovTrack.us (database of federal legislation)*

<<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-1810>> (accessed Dec 5, 2008)

^{xiii} Nichols, Tracy. *ChristianAnswers.Net* "Personal Stories of Medical Complications" <http://www.christiananswers.net/life/stories-med-complications.html>. 5 Sept. 2008.

^{xiv} New, Dr. Michael. "More Evidence of Abortion Decline Among America's Youth." *National Right to Life*. 2 Mar. 2007. 12 Dec. 2008 http://www.nrlc.org/News_and_Views/March07/nv030207.html.

^{xv} Henshaw, Stanley K. and Kathryn Kost. "Trends in the Characteristics of Women Obtaining Abortions, 1974 to 2004" *Guttmacher Institute* Aug. 2008 (19). Tabulation of data obtained from the Guttmacher Abortion Provider Surveys, "Appendix Table 1. Number of legal abortions, by state of occurrence." Percentage obtained through number of total U.S. legal abortion and total number of U.S. births as provided by Guttmacher and U.S. birth rates. 22 Dec. 2008 <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0005067.html>.

^{xvi} Ertelt, Steven. "Teens, Young Adults more likely to oppose abortion, want more limits." *LifeNews.com*. 27 June 2007. 12 Dec. 2008 <http://www.lifenews.com/nat3212.html>.

^{xvii} *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*