



What is ...?

Looking **at** Life
in the Womb
FOR KIDS

TEACHER GUIDE

Looking **at** Life in the Womb

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Introduction

The Ultrasound Education Project, “Looking at Life in the Womb,” brings the miracle and sanctity of human life into your upper elementary school (Grades 3–5) and early middle-school classrooms through the use of carefully planned activities and ultrasound technology. Through the use of high-quality film and an age-appropriate teaching curriculum, the reality that the pre-born are human beings will be evident. By the end of the unit, learners will recognize that human life exists in the womb prior to birth — life that is worth loving, caring for and protecting from harm. The content and activities in this unit have been aligned with the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The curriculum also intentionally incorporates STEM/STEAM elements.

Research has shown that ultrasound is the most effective means of providing education about prenatal development and unborn life. This is because the very sight of a beating heart or a moving limb of a baby in the womb is enough to convince observers of the humanity of the unborn. For this reason, real ultrasounds, provided by volunteers, have been chosen to be at the heart of this unit. The curriculum surrounding these ultrasounds has been developed to enhance their inherent effectiveness. Although the concept of abortion is NOT addressed in this curriculum, it is hoped that this unit will help build a foundation in the cause to eliminate abortions across our nation.

It is also important to note that this curriculum does NOT attempt to incorporate any sex education, nor does it assume any prior knowledge in that regard. Any decision to integrate sex education with this curriculum is left solely to the discretion of the teacher. That said, it would be naïve to assume that the question of “Where do babies come from?” (in the mother’s womb) will not arise. A response consistent with God’s Word would be appropriate — God makes babies (Psalm 139:13).

This curriculum is comprised of five sessions, each of which builds upon the previous one. The basic lesson in each session will require about 40 minutes of class time. However, each session will also provide supplemental, optional activities that could require more time, depending upon the activity chosen and the depth covered. Thus, you could cover all five sessions in as little as five days, arranged over the course of one week, or five weeks, if taught once per week. Concordia Publishing House offers sex education resources for families and schools in their *Learning about Sex* series. Find more information at cph.org/c-2910-learning-about-sex.aspx.

The entire curriculum is based on the 5E learning model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate),¹ and each session is titled with a simple question: “What is...?” (Except for Session 4.) The five sessions build upon each other as follows:

Session 1 — Engage: What Is a Life Cycle?

Session 2 — Explore: What Are Human Life Stages?

Session 3 — Explain: What Is Life Before Birth?

Session 4 — Elaborate: Modeling Me!

Session 5 — Evaluate: What Do You Think?

Sessions 1–5 can be taught from a secular perspective for appropriate use in both public and Christian schools. However, faith has been distinctly integrated into each of the modules for specific use in Christian schools. (See the green text.)

Each session begins with distinct learning objectives, a list of materials needed and a listing of relevant vocabulary words. Procedural instructions for each lesson follow. A Student Life Notebook is provided for each learner to record information generated in the various session activities. Finally, each session ends with some ideas for extending the lesson. Additionally, each session has a PowerPoint presentation that can be used to guide your instruction.

Digital versions of the teacher and student booklets, PowerPoint presentations, as well as the “Looking at Life in the Womb” videos, are available free of charge by creating an account on *LCMSlife.org*. These resources were made possible by a generous mission grant from the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

¹ “The BSCS 5E Instructional Model,” BSCS Science Learning, June 12, 2006, media.bscls.org/bscsmw/5es/bscs_5e_full_report.pdf.

