

*The Catholic Vision  
of Love*

**Student's Lessons for Grade 8**

**Class 1**

**Your vocation: To make the  
world a better place**

# Your vocation: To make the world a better place

*Studying what the Lord teaches us about sexuality*

## Introduction

This world is clearly not in the condition it should be in, but Christ calls YOU to accept the responsibility to make it a better place. He wants YOU to do what you can to make our world mirror the Kingdom of God. YOU can make a difference and YOU are not alone!

## These are the things we will talk about in this first lesson:

As Christians we have a duty to *respect* the lives of all persons.

*Activities* of irresponsible sex outside of marriage can very often lead to pregnancy and pressure persons to have an abortion.

We must care about the lives of the children who are killed by abortion, and yet have *COMPASSION* for those who decide for abortion.

God *calls* us to choose the good — for life.

We must also concern ourselves with actions of *justice* toward all persons.

## A pro-life stand


As Christians we have a duty to care about and respect all people. Jesus told us that we would be judged by the way we have loved others. (See Matthew 25:31-46.)

Consider abortion. Abortion ends the life of a tiny baby in the mother's womb. You are bombarded with harmful television messages regarding abortion. You must know that abortion can only be overcome by *unselfish caring* and loving attitudes and actions.

We call a young newborn an "infant," but we call a baby before it is born a "fetus." A fetus is unquestionably a tiny human being. Everybody knows this, but sometimes people try to talk themselves



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into pretending that the fetus is just “a bit of tissue” or a mere part of the mother’s body, like an appendix. This is simply not true! Perhaps you have learned how each person has a *distinctive* “genetic code.” Every cell in the mother has the same genetic code, but every cell of the fetus is marked by its own genetic code, not the mother’s.

The tiny fetus is your little brother or sister in the human family. The fetus is a very young human being — he or she has a face and a beating heart. The hands are tiny, and “perfect,” right down to the unique fingerprints. The brain is working. In fact, doctors can catch distinctive brain waves on a screen. Most of all, this fetus has an inner longing to live, to grow, and to be allowed to become its full self, just like you and me.

## **Why are there so many abortions today?**

Many people are irresponsible about sex. Sinful sexual acts of different kinds gradually lead people toward sexual intercourse (an act intended only for marriage). God’s plan for us is great. However, when we are selfish and irresponsible, everything is confusing.

*Everyone* knows that having sexual intercourse carries with it the potential for bringing new life into being. This is also true for people who use contraceptives. In fact, contraceptives fail more often for young people than for others. The passion for careless sex is so strong that the people involved often stop caring about anything but pleasure.

The result of this careless behavior may be the conception of a child. The problem intensifies: This child will be an embarrassment . . . Our lives will change drastically . . . College is not an option . . . Where will I get the money needed to take care of a child? . . . What will others think of me?

To add to the pressure, many important and powerful people believe that it is OK to have an abortion. They do not believe in Christ or His message that every human life is *precious*. In addition, the performance of abortions becomes a large and profitable operation.

The outcome is an abortion — the killing of a precious human being.

