



About Informed Choice of Iowa

Our Vision

Eliminate the “need” for abortion in Iowa

Our Mission

Meet the Real Needs of men and women when they are facing unexpected sexual health decisions and turn Fear into Confidence by providing Strength for Life’s Tough Choices.

Who Are We?

The Informed Choices Medical Clinic is a non-profit, accredited medical clinic, offering Pregnancy Verification and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) testing and other related services.

- 95% of post-abortive women say they wish they had been given more information
- 90% of post-abortive women, knowing what they know now, would have made a different choice.

Informed Choice of Iowa felt a responsibility to respond to *this urgent need for information and education*.

What is the Informed Choice Story so Far?

Informed Choice of Iowa was founded in June of 2007. The first medical clinic was opened in Iowa City in April of 2009. In 2011 a statewide vision for satellite medical clinics was established. With its new satellite medical clinic model, Informed Choice continues to add brick and mortar facilities as well as mobile units around the state.

Why a Satellite Clinic Model?

- The unified brand of Informed Choice increases name recognition. As Informed Choices Medical Clinics open across the state, potential clients will come to know the name and be pleased to find one in close proximity.
- By keeping a lean cost structure, a strong volunteer base, and shared overhead costs, Local clinics are focused entirely on community education and client care.

What is the Culture of an Informed Choice Medical Clinic?

At Informed Choice we recognize that this is an emotionally difficult time for our clients. We are here to help. Everything in our clinics is very purposefully planned from the color of the walls to being offered a beverage. Our message to our clients is clear in all we do: You are special, you have dignity, we value you, we care about you, our facility and staff will allow you to retreat into an oasis from the chaos you are feeling right now.

Our medical team is very proficient in their professional medical knowledge. We provide information and answer questions with medical facts. However, our emphasis on human dignity and physical, emotional and spiritual strength guides our care. We listen to stories, dry tears and hold hands. We walk along side our clients through this challenging time.

*Informed Choices is a Christ centered ministry offering women and men love, hope, and compassion by sharing the Gospel in word and deed to those He divinely sends us.
Love and information can change everything!*

About the Curriculum

Life Begins is a curriculum for children ages 4 years-6th grade. It provides 5 brief lessons to be added to core curriculum. Thus, the regularly scheduled programming can proceed uninterrupted. Each lesson is split into two sections. The first section is designed to last approximately 4-5 minutes (Possibly at the beginning of a lesson). The follow up review (including a take away) is designed for 1-2 minutes at the very close of a class period so that the students remember the **Life Begins** lesson to discuss with their parents.

Therefore the curriculum by design provides for an add-on to multiple children's programming:

- Vacation Bible School
- Sunday School or Kids Church
- After School Programming
- Evening Programming
- Parochial Schools

The message and review provided with each lesson is written in a language that should be able to be universally used for all age groups. However, we realize that it may be used specifically for segmented ages. Therefore with the universal language as a base, we encourage each teacher to alter and adjust the language of the text so that it is age appropriate to the children being taught.

This training series provides:

- 5 lessons (Message and follow up Review) available as a leader's guide or downloadable
- PowerPoint slides appropriate to each session
- Bible Verse Cards for distribution to each child
- Parent Take Home Sheet
- Recommended visuals included in curriculum guidance
- Suggested "Take Home Gifts" appropriate to each lesson

All of the curriculum can be downloaded at www.InformedChoiceIA.org

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SESSION 1 – God Knew You

Message:

(Visual Session 1a)

Good Morning boys and girls, I would like you to meet baby Sam. Sam will be with us all week as we celebrate the gift of life God gave us. We are going to learn about how God designed us when we were babies and the miracle that takes place when each baby is created.

Let's begin by talking about birthday parties. Raise your hand if you like birthday parties. Because we celebrate birthdays, we many times think when babies are born, or their birth day, is the first time we meet them and know them.

But, do you know when God first knew Sam?

For 9 months a baby is growing inside her mommy's tummy. The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 1:5 (*Visual Session 1 Bible Verse*)

“Before I formed you in the womb; I knew you,
Before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

- **Option 1** - The womb is the name given to the place where a baby is tucked away inside the mommy while she is getting big enough to be able to survive outside of the mommy. The verse tells us that God formed the baby. So, while the baby is in the mommy's womb, God is forming each part of the baby. While Sam was in mommy's womb, God was forming each part of baby Sam. While you were in your mommy's womb God formed your head, your shoulders, your knees, and even your toes (Have them point to each part as you name them. Start singing “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.”) The only reason we have heads and shoulders and knees and toes to sing about is because God formed them for us while we were in our mommy's tummy. Let's look at Sam, can you name other body parts that God is forming in mommy's tummy? Ears? Nose? Mouth?
- **Option 2** (*Option for older children*) – The womb is the organ in a woman's body that is perfect for developing a baby. The womb is right inside the mom's stomach. The verse tells us that God formed the baby. So, while the baby is in the womb, God is forming each part of the baby. While Sam was in her mom's womb, God was forming each part of baby Sam. While you were in your mom's womb God formed you.

Stand up tall. Why is Charlie taller than Susie? Why is Sharon taller than Cindy? Can you do anything to make yourself taller? If I wanted to be shorter, could I somehow do that? No, that is all part who we are and why we are special. God made us unique.



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- God knew us and had plans for our lives even before we were born.
- God has prepared in advance what we are to do with our lives.

Bible Verse

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

*Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
Newborn Baby*

*Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
(Samuel or Samantha)
Baby doll as real as possible.*

SESSION 1 – God Knew You

Let's all hold up a hand. Compare your hand with your neighbors. Does anyone here have the same size hand? Are some hands a lot bigger than yours? Look at your thumb alone. Did you know that your thumb print can identify you because no one else's is the same? Isn't God amazing at how he planned the details of you and made you inside your mom's womb! God knew you and formed you and created you special!

The Bible verse also tells us that God knew you before you were born. That means that God is always busy creating new babies for him to know. It means that he knew every single baby when it was in the tummy of the mommy. God never misses or overlooks a person, but knows us all. Did he know me when I was in my Mommy's tummy? Did he know _____, when she was in her mommy's tummy? Did he know _____, when he was in his mommy's tummy. Did he know baby Sam when Sam was in mommy's tummy? Did he know you when you were in your mommy's tummy? So, every single person was known my God when they were in their mommy's tummy.

I think we have an awesome God who loves babies in mommy's tummies a lot. Don't you? Think of all the work and planning God goes to for each and every baby. Yes, he loves babies in mommy's tummies.

Review:

(Visual Session1 Bible Verse)

Where do babies grow before we meet them? That's right! They grow in mommy's tummies in a place called a womb. While Sam was in mommy's tummy, Sam developed all different parts of her body. For 9 months a baby grows inside a mommy's tummy. The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb; I knew you,

This Bible verse also tells us that God KNEW you before you were born. That means that when God is busy creating babies, He knows each one of them personally. So, every single person was known my God when they were in their mommy's tummy. God never misses or overlooks a person, but knows us all.

We have an awesome God who loves babies in mommy's tummies a lot!

Take Home

- **Bible Verse Card** – Jeremiah 1:5
- **Gift** – LIFE balloon for each child



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- God knew us and had plans for our lives even before we were born.
- God has prepared in advance what we are to do with our lives.

Bible Verse

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

*Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
Newborn Baby*

*Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
(Samuel or Samantha)
Baby doll as real as possible.*

SESSION 2 – God Knows You By Name

Message:

(Visual Session 2 Bible Verse 1)

God knows you personally.

Matthew 10:30

“And even the very hairs of your head are numbered.”

God knows you so well He even knows how many hairs are on your head. Do you think you have more than 100 hairs on your head? Do you think you have more than 200 hairs on your head? How about ____? How many hairs does ____ have on her head? We don't even know the number of hairs on our head. But, God knows. In fact, God knows the number for each and every one of us...all the time. He knows a lot about you...he even designed a map with everything about you.

- **Option 1** – (Visual Session 2a) The picture on the screen is called DNA. DNA is the individual map that designed each of us to be. We each have one. And each one of our DNA is different. This map determines the color of your eyes. What color are your eyes? Well, God determined that color. What about the shape of your nose? God decided exactly the shape of your nose. He even designed your teeth. And, all of that design is in your map...your DNA. DNA is like this long ribbon...the ribbon has the instructions all planned out.
- **Option 2** – (Visual Session 2a) The picture on the screen is called DNA. DNA is the individual map that designed each of us to be. We each have one. And each one of our DNA is different. This map determines the color of our eyes. What color are your eyes? Well, God chose that color just for you. What about the shape of your nose? God decided exactly the shape of your nose. He even designed your teeth. And, all of that information is your DNA.

DNA is like putting together some Lego's. We have 4 different colors and will group them in 3's like DNA. Let's pretend these DNA will determine your hair color. We can group them this way, or this way, or this way, or this way. (*Show different groupings of colors.*) Now look around to everyone and notice all the different hair colors. There are so many combinations to create many different colors. We have the basic black hair, blonde hair, brown hair or red hair. But, there are so many different shades. See ____ and ____ both have brown hair, but they are still different colors. Just the same way God has made each one of us unique and special. There are so many different combinations about so many different items in our body that make us special. God is amazingly creative!

God knows all about you. He designed you using a map - DNA. And then he used that map to grow all of your cells. The DNA is your master plan. He designed you just the way he wanted you to be. He doesn't make any mistakes. Our map and our cells are all exactly the way God intended them to be.



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- God personally knows each of us by name.
- God knows every detail about us because He loves us so very much.

Bible Verse

Matthew 10:30

And even the hairs on your head are numbered.

John 10:3

The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Visual on Screen:

Bible Verse

DNA Graphic

Pictures of Unknown Kids

Visual to Hold:

Baby Doll - Sam

Long Ribbon (4 years – K)

12 Lego's

(3 each of 4 colors)

SESSION 2 – God Knows You By Name

Let's look at some pictures of some kids that God created. (*Visual Session 2b*) Ask the kids if they know any of the people on the screen.

We call people we don't know strangers. No one is a stranger to God. (*Visual Session 2 Bible Verse 2*)

John 10:3

The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by **NAME** and leads them out. (*Emphasis added*)

Now point to a few students in the class calling them by name.

God calls YOU by name. He knows WHO YOU ARE. You are NOT a stranger to God. He CREATED you, He KNOWS you and He LOVES you.

Review:

(*Visual Session 2 Bible Verse 1*)

Matthew 10:30 tells us that God knows the number of hairs on our head...at ALL times. So, when you lose a hair in your comb, he knows that. He cares about every detail of your life. In fact, he designed you with a map that is called DNA. That map determined everything about how you were formed, how you look, and how each body part functions.

(*Visual Session 2 Bible Verse 2*)

Not only that, we learn in John 10:3 that He calls all of us by name. He has a lot of names to remember...but he remembers every single "one of a kind" person that he designs. You are not a stranger to God. He created you, he knows you and he loves you.

Take Home

- **Bible Verse Card** – Matthew 10:30/John 10:3
- **Gift** – "Life" pencil for each student



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- God personally knows each of us by name.
- God knows every detail about us because He loves us so very much.

Bible Verse

Matthew 10:30

And even the hairs on your head are numbered.

John 10:3

The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

*Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
DNA Graphic
Pictures of Unknown Kids*

*Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
Long Ribbon (4 years - K)
12 Lego's
(3 each of 4 colors)*

SESSION 3 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Message:

Did you know each of you started as one cell? (Hold up a small ball.) That one cell had all the information we talked about before...the map...the DNA. Yes, the DNA in that cell determined your hair color, your eye color, the size of your feet, and even how tall you would become. This one cell went to work to create you! One cell became two cells... (Hold up 2 identical balls). Two cells became 4 cells.... (Hold up 4 identical balls). Let's look at our calendar (*Visual Session 3a*) and count out 2 weeks. *Count off the days and get to 14.* There are 365 days in a year...so 14 days is not many days at all. After 14 days or about 2 weeks, you were 16 cells with the exact same DNA in each cell. I need 4 people to come up and help me hold all 16 balls together. *Hold the balls together so that they all touch another ball. Count them out.* WOW! Those cells became lots in a short amount of time. The picture on the screen (*Visual Session 3b*) shows how the cells continue to make more cells. More and more cells are made every single day. We all have trillions of cells in our bodies. There are about 2 ½ billion cells in your hand alone. Everybody hold up one hand. How many cells are in your hand? 2 ½ Billion cells, but they are so tiny that you cannot see them. Let's pretend every cell in your hand is as big as of a grain of sand, which we can see. Can you believe your hand would be the size of a school bus! (*Visual Session 3c*) *We have many cells working in our body that we cannot see.* Every cell in your body follows the direction of your DNA. And, remember each cell has a special job to do in your body.

(*Visual Session 3 Bible Verse*) *Read the Bible verse from the screen.* We are going to see some of the wonderful things God is doing as he makes babies.

To talk about cell development use the options noted below. Several are provided so that you can use the ones that work the best for you. Be sure you use the heart example... the heart beat.

- **Option 1 - 21 days (Heart Beat)** – Let's see what we can "hear" in mommy's tummy after 21 days. We will begin by counting up to 21 days using our calendar (*Visual Session 3a*). 21 days is not very long when you think about 365 days in a year. *Wind up an old clock and listen to the tick-tock, tick-tock. Alternately, have a nurse visit the class and bring a stethoscope. Using one child's heart beat as an example. If time allows let the kids listen to the heart beat.* When a little baby is just 21 days old in mommy's tummy, the cells of the heart have already begun to beat. With the right equipment, we can hear that heart beat. So the heart is one of the first jobs that the cells create. At first the heart beats about 70 times per minutes. Let me show you how fast that beat is. We will try to clap to keep time with the beat. *Start a timer (Countdown timer or Visual Session 3d on the screen) and watch it count to 60 in one minute clapping 60 times as you go.* This timer is just a little bit slower than the heart beat of a baby that is 21 days old which is about 70 times per minute. At seven weeks it will reach a heart beat rate of 170-190 beats a minute. That's about 3 times faster.



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- Each of us started as just one cell...but the cells multiplied very quickly.
- Each cell in the body contributes to a function in the body.

Bible Verse

Psalm 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Visual on Screen:

Bible Verse

Calendar

Cell Multiplication

School Bus

Options

Countdown Timer

Graphic of 8 week baby

Visual to Hold:

Baby Doll - Sam

16 identical small balls

Options

Ticking Clock

Nurse with a stethoscope

Electronic Timer (or visual)

SESSION 3 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Let's try to keep pace with 3 claps per second for a few seconds. Start a timer (*Countdown timer or Visual Session 3d on the screen*). And...the beat goes on and on as the baby continues to grow.

- **Option 2 - 8 weeks (Arms and Legs)** – Let's look at Sam at 8 weeks. Let's count up our weeks using the calendar (*Visual Session 3a*). By 8 weeks our new little baby (*Visual Session 3e*), Sam, has developed cells that form arms and legs. Sam is about the size of my thumb at 8 weeks. So, Sam is really, really small...but look at those arms and legs on the screen. And, that's not all, Sam is starting to move those arms and legs. Let's all stand up and stretch our legs, move them around a little. Now put your arms in front of you and then beside you. You started moving those arms and legs of yours when you were just 8 weeks old and this big (hold up your thumb) in your mommy's tummy.
- **Option 3 - 11 weeks (Face)** – Let's try making expressions with our faces. Let's frown, let's wiggle our noses, let's smile. At 11 weeks in mommy's tummy, Sam started making expressions using the cells that made her face.
- **Option 4 – 16 weeks or 4 months (Suck Thumb)** – You can't even imagine what Sam might be up to at 4 months old. Sam can suck her thumb. And...Sam can turn somersaults. Now hold up your thumb and grip it with your other hand. Hold your thumb tight. At 4 months Sam has a firm grip. WOW... babies are very busy growing up and trying all kinds of new things as the cells develop.

Just think, from one cell...all of the parts of the body are developed with different jobs. God has an amazing plan for every cell so that your body does everything it's supposed to do. And, babies like Sam, are moving and growing in their mommy's tummy long before we ever see the baby.

Let's look at our Bible verse. (*Visual Session 3 Bible Verse*). We now know what that verse means.

Review:

(*Visual Session 3b*)

Sam started as one cell. (*Hold up a small ball.*) This one cell had all the information we talked about before...the map...the DNA. More and more cells (*hold up the balls again*) kept developing to form all parts of Sam's body. What's the first thing we could hear about Sam? That's right, at 21 days we could hear Sam's heart beat. And, then gradually, Sam's heart beat got faster and stronger...getting her ready to be able to survive outside mommy's tummy. That one cell had all the instructions for Sam's face, arms, legs, toes, eyes...absolutely everything was designed. God has an amazing job for every cell in every body.

Take Home

- **Bible Verse** – Psalm 139:13-14
- **Gift** – Heart Shaped Decal or Heart Shaped Stickers



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- Each of us started as just one cell...but the cells multiplied very quickly.
- Each cell in the body contributes to a function in the body.

Bible Verse

Psalm 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
Calendar
Cell Multiplication
School Bus
Options
Countdown Timer
Graphic of 8 week baby

Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
16 identical small balls
Options
Ticking Clock
Nurse with a stethoscope
Electronic Timer (or visual)

SESSION 4 – The Miracle of Life

Message:

(No options provided with this lesson...the 12 week old baby is powerful.)

Today we are going to read Genesis 2:7 (*Visual Session 4 Bible Verse*):

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

The Bible tells us that God created people in His own image which just means we are “like Him”. Did you know that everything else God **spoke** and it was created? He said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. He did the same thing for plants, and animals. But, to make a man God used His hands (*have everyone hold up their hands*) and picked up the dust of the ground (*pretend to scoop up dirt and form it*). Then, once the first person was made, his name was Adam, God breathed into the man’s nose the breath of life (*Breathe out from your mouth into your hands. Maybe have the class give it a try too.*) God also created a woman by using one of the man’s ribs. Her name was Eve. Can you feel your ribs? God made Eve from just using Adam’s rib.

People are so very loved and special to God. He took special care in creating us using his own hands and his own breath. The first people on earth were really “handmade”. And, we are starting to understand all the work God still goes to in order to create each new baby.

Today we have a precious baby for each of you. Our baby Sam was still inside her mommy’s tummy when she was this size. Look at the baby on the screen (*Visual Session 4a*). That is a picture of a baby at 12 weeks. Now, look at the baby in my hand. This is the size of the baby at 12 weeks. Some mommy’s are just finding out that they have a baby in their tummy. Some mommy’s have known for awhile. But, this is when their bellies are starting to have a bump in them and people can see that they are growing a baby inside their tummy.

(Pass out a baby to each child. Discuss the hands / feet / nose / eyes, etc. Help them notice as many details as you can in the time provided.)

Some people think these babies in Mommy’s tummies are just a lump of cells. But, we know that’s not true! They have been babies from the very beginning. Remember the heart beat? (*Use whichever examples you used in Session 3.*) Remember the arms and legs we saw when they were starting to be made? Remember how Sam sucked her thumb? Remember, that Sam could turn somersaults?) Sam was a little tiny baby growing bigger and bigger every single day. It doesn’t matter how tiny Sam was...Sam was still a baby.

When Sam got big enough to live outside her mommy’s tummy, Sam was born. That day was Sam’s official birth day. But, new babies have been babies from the very beginning in their mommy’s tummy. That’s right, the whole time Sam was in her mommy’s tummy she was a baby...Sam just had to have time to grow.



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- Each person is individually loved by God AND special to God.
- Little teeny, tiny babies are in mommy’s tummies growing, growing and growing.

Bible Verse

Genesis 2:7

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

*Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
Graphic of 12 Week Baby*

*Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
12 week model baby*

SESSION 4 – The Miracle of Life

Review:

The Bible tells us that God created people to be like him. (*Visual Session 4 Bible Verse*) When God created the light in the sky, the plants and all the animals, He spoke to create them. But, when he made the first man, Adam, God used His own hands and made him (*use your hands again to pretend to form a man*). Then, God used his own breath and breathed into the nose of Adam and Adam came alive. (*Breathe into your hands as you talk about this.*) Then, God took a rib from Adam's side and created a woman named Eve. Can you feel your ribs? So, the first people were "handmade" by God using His own hands and His own breath.

Now God creates babies in mommy's tummies. They start out really tiny. And in just a few days, their heart starts beating. (*Visual Session 4a*) Then, before long, we see the baby's arms and legs growing. It doesn't matter how tiny Sam was when she was first created. She was a baby. The baby you have to take home, is a tiny baby that has been in her mommy's tummy for 12 weeks. Sam was this small in her mommy's tummy. She just had to have time to grow bigger so she could live on her own outside her mommy's tummy.

Take Home

- **Bible Verse:** Genesis 2:7
- **Gift:** Give each student a 12 week model baby



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- Each person is individually loved by God AND special to God.
- Little teeny, tiny babies are in mommy's tummies growing, growing and growing.

Bible Verse

Genesis 2:7

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

*Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
Graphic of 12 Week Baby*

*Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
12 week model baby*

SESSION 5 – God Holds Us Together

Message:

We have learned a lot about how God makes babies in mommy's tummies and how He knows each one of us individually. He loves us so much and actually calls each of us by name. God knew your name ____! God knew that before Mommy and Daddy named you. And, God knew your name _____. God called you by that name when you were still in your mommy's tummy. Isn't that cool!!!

We learned how our bodies were created from one single cell and then made more and more cells every single day. We have one more exciting thing to teach you about during this last session...a cell adhesion molecule. Those are some big words!!! There is a cell in our body that holds us all together. This cell is called laminin. It is like a glue that makes sure our cells stay together.

(Visual Session 5 Bible Verse) Read Bible verse from screen.

Laminin makes sure our heart cells stick together as a heart. And, laminin makes sure our eye cells stick together to create our eyes. Scientists discovered laminin is all over our bodies holding our many body parts together. In fact, laminin holds everything about us together.

Here is laminin. *(Visual Session 5a)*

What shape is laminin? That's right, laminin is the shape of a cross! Let's make a CROSS sign with our arms. Let's cross our arms (*one arm pointing up and the other arm perpendicular*). Now every time I say CROSS...let's make the sign for a CROSS. This first picture of laminin is a chart. Now let's look at a picture of the actual cell. *(Visual Session 5b)* Notice the shape of the CROSS in that picture too.

God's design for our bodies requires laminin to hold us together. It is so very important that we have this CROSS shaped cell. God created us knowing we needed laminin to hold our bodies together, and he chose to create it in the shape of a cross.

What do you think of when you see a CROSS? What did Jesus do on the CROSS?

When Jesus died on the CROSS, he paid for all of our sins. God's CROSS for Jesus gives us forgiveness so that we can live forever with Jesus in heaven.

- **Physical** - The cross in laminin makes each part of our body hold together. This cell is the glue that keeps our organs together and our muscles strong. Our whole body stays together because of these CROSS shaped cells.
- **Spiritual** - The CROSS of Jesus is what holds us together spiritually. Because of the cross, we have forgiveness of sins which we could never earn or achieve on our own. Only because of Jesus dying on the CROSS can we enjoy heaven for eternity.



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- The cross that holds our bodies together.
- Plus, the cross of Christ and its importance in our lives.

Bible Verse

Colossians 1:17

He is before all things,
and in him all things hold
together.

*Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
Graphic of Laminin*

*Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
12 Week Baby Model*

SESSION 5 – God Holds Us Together

The CROSS of laminin holds our bodies together. The CROSS of Christ gives us heaven. So, God has used the shape of a CROSS to make us AND to save us. Wow...what a God He is to have such a good plan for our lives here on earth and our lives in heaven. He has taken care of every detail of our lives. The CROSS is another way that we know that we have a loving Father!

Review:

(Visual Session 5a)

There is a cell in our body that holds us all together. This cell is called laminin. It is like a glue that makes sure our cells stay together. Laminin makes sure our heart cells stick together as a heart. And, laminin makes sure our eye cells stick together for our eye. Without speaking show me the shape of laminin. (*CROSS sign*) That's right it is in the shape of a CROSS.

The CROSS also makes all the parts hold together. Our whole body stays together because of these CROSS shaped cells.

What did Jesus do on the CROSS? When he died on the CROSS, he paid for all the things we do wrong. God's CROSS for Jesus gives us forgiveness so that we can live forever with Jesus in heaven.

The CROSS of laminin holds our bodies together. The CROSS of Christ gives us heaven. So, God has used the shape of a CROSS to make us AND to save us.

We have sure had fun doing our study on babies. God created babies and grows babies in mommy's tummies long before we can see the baby. We have learned a lot about what the baby is doing inside the mommy.

We learned that our baby Sam started from one cell and then kept adding lots and lots of cells and growing and growing until she was big enough to live outside the safe place in mommy's tummy. No matter how small Sam was she was a baby. (*Visual Session 4a*) We even remember that we held a 12 week old baby like this in our hands. God made you. God had a specific plan for what you would be like. He makes no mistakes. He has never ever missed a single baby. He knew every one of them by name...and even the number of hairs on their head.

God planned you. God made you. God knows you. God loves you.

Take Home

- **Bible Verse** - Colossians 1:17
- **Gift** – Small Cross



Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- The cross that holds our bodies together.
- Plus, the cross of Christ and its importance in our lives.

Bible Verse

Colossians 1:17

He is before all things,
and in him all things hold
together.

*Visual on Screen:
Bible Verse
Graphic of Laminin*

*Visual to Hold:
Baby Doll - Sam
12 Week Baby Model*

Visuals

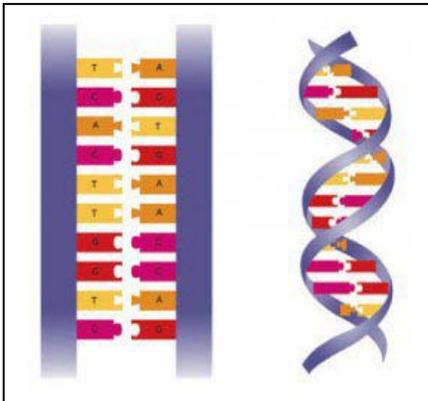
Session 1a - Newborn baby.



A Power Point presentation of these visuals and Bible verses is available free online at:

www.InformedChoiceIA.org

Session 2a - DNA Graphic - <http://hubpages.com/education/explaining-dna-to-a-six-year-old>



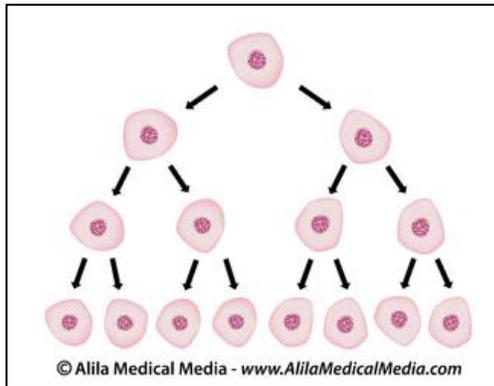
Session 2b – Picture of Unknown Kids



Session 3a – Calendar



Session 3b – Cell Multiplication



Session 3c – School Bus - <http://hubpages.com/education/explaining-dna-to-a-six-year-old>



Session 3d – Countdown Timer - <http://www.online-stopwatch.com/countdown/>

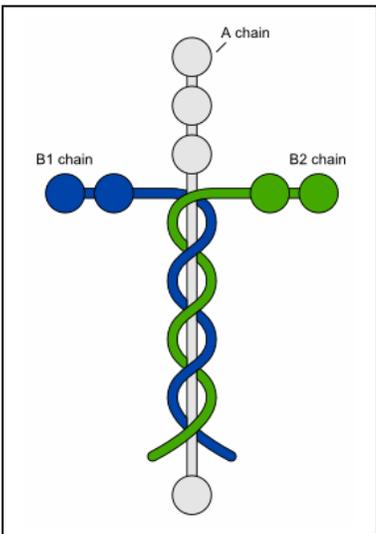
Session 3e – Graphic of 8 Week Baby - www.babycenter.com



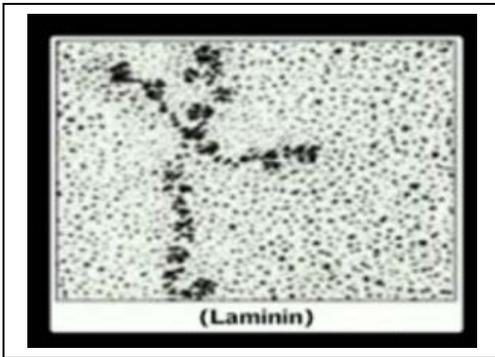
Session 4a – Graphic of 12 Week Baby – www.babycenter.com



Session 5a – Laminin Chart



Session 5b – Laminin Picture



Take Home

Most of the “Take Home” gifts can be purchased online at various sources. We have provided some source options for your convenience in ordering.

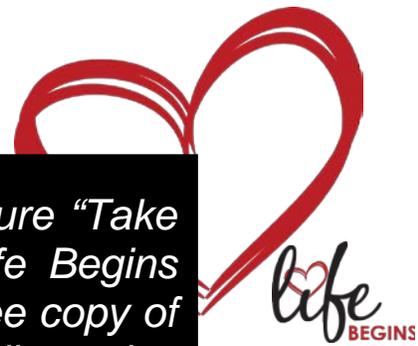
Session 1	LIFE balloon	www.hh76.org
Session 2	A LIFE pencil	www.hh76.org
Session 3	Heart Stickers	www.instocklabels.com
Session 4	12 week fetal baby (rubber or plastic)	www.hh76.org or www.maternalsource.com
Session 5	Pocket Cross	www.churchsupplier.com

Session 1 – God Knew You

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

This is a sample of the scripture “Take Home” provided with this Life Begins lesson series. To obtain a free copy of this handout for copying and dispersing please go to:

www.InformedChoiceIA.org.



Session 1 – God Knew You

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5



Session 1 – God Knew You

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5





Dear Parents,

Consider this your invitation to participate in developing a culture of life in your family, church and community. Your participation is key for your child to be “brainwashed” with God’s plans for life. Yes, you want your child’s brain to be washed clean from the messages of our society and also strengthened in a firm foundation of God’s truth. We don’t use the word “brainwashed” lightly. Why? Because society doesn’t! Society is a powerful force in each child’s life and tactical, intentional plans to own their brains and thoughts are very real. God’s truth will prevail always. But, parents must rise up and claim the hearts and minds of their children in this fight for the protection of life. The next generation need never go the path of abortion!

The Life Begins lesson series provides for a basis of thought patterns and worldview that will be introduced at a very young age in an effort to strengthen each child’s understanding of life at conception. Thus, a Biblical worldview of life will be formed in advance of the bombardment of culture to deny that life begins at conception.

You are cordially invited to support this Life Begins series at home!

SESSION 1 Overview – God Knew You

Where do babies come from? They grow in a mom’s tummy (womb) before they are born. For 9 months, the baby is in her mom’s womb.

Jeremiah 1:5 tells us in advance what we are to do with our lives.

This Bible verse tells us that God knew us before we were born. That means God knew us before we were born. So, every son and daughter that is born is known to God before they are born. So, every son and daughter that is born is known to God before they are born.

This is a sample parent handout from the “Take Home” available for the Life Begins lesson series. A free copy of the parent handout can be found at:

www.InformedChoiceIA.org

We have an awesome God who loves babies a lot...even while He is creating them in their mom’s womb.

Goal for the Session

Students will understand:

- God knew us and had plans for our lives even before we were born.
- God has prepared in advance what we are to do with our lives.

Bible Verse

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

About the Author – Angela Naeve

Angela Naeve graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with her bachelor's degree in music education and has taught vocal music in public and parochial schools. Angela has been involved with a traveling music ministry for twenty plus years and writes and records original songs. She greatly enjoys presenting at conferences to encourage fellow Christians and teach new songs and ideas. Angela and her husband Russ, farm near Gilmore City, Iowa and have been blessed with four children.

Informed Choice of Iowa has been blessed by connecting our passion and Angela's passion to develop this curriculum. Angela has a heart for a culture of life and for children. Therefore, she partnered with us in formalizing a study that she previously produced and utilized in various Christian children's ministry programs.

Contributing Editor – Lois Pannkuk

Informed Choice has an internal environment that encourages each staff person to apply their strengths to the organization to assist in developing a culture of life in Iowa. Lois Pannkuk in her role as Regional Director of Development for the Fort Dodge Clinic had the opportunity to be involved in the production of this curriculum. Working together with Angela to accomplish a finished product allowed Lois to fulfill her passion for education and enlightenment. Although Lois is retired she remains a perpetual learner. So, her passion for LIFE as well as her passion for learning blended well with Angela's talents, skills and passions. Through the connection at Informed Choice the two have developed a tool for the necessary conversations with the very young to instill the Word of God and God's design for LIFE into little hearts and minds.

life BEGINS

A Children's Adventure into the Wonder of Life at Conception!!!



At the heart of a culture of life is the basic understanding at a very young age that life begins at conception. While this concept cannot be explained scientifically in detail to children, there are many topics that can be introduced so that each child has cemented his or her understanding of the beginning of life. The **Life Begins** lesson series provides for a basis of thought patterns and worldview that will be introduced at a very young age in an effort to strengthen each child's understanding of life at conception. Thus, a Biblical worldview of life will be formed in advance of the bombardment of culture to deny the fact that life begins at conception.

A training tool provided by Informed Choice of Iowa...

Training young children that life begins at conception is a powerful opportunity for Informed Choice to come along side our church ministry partners. The Christian community must be diligent to instill values in children that echo God's Word. We are pleased to make available this life affirming kit to assist your church in pouring information into young minds that will strengthen them to resist the culture and its lies.

This initiative, like all our Informed Choice initiatives, is born out of our vision to "eliminate the NEED for abortion in Iowa." May the children in our church communities be so certain of the start of life that abortion will never be considered as an option.