ABORTION: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION

Group Activity (5 Minutes)

Divide the class into three parts. Assign each group one of the following questions to answer within three minutes. Then have them share with the whole class (ask them to be very specific):

1. When does life begin?
2. Why should an unborn baby have rights or not have rights?
3. Why should the rights of a mother be greater, or not greater, then those of her unborn child?

Ask the groups to share their answers, and remind the class that this is not a debate, but rather a time to hear different perspectives.

SHOW THE VIDEO (16 Minutes)

Small Group Questions (10 Minutes - 5 per group, assign 3 or 4 questions)

1. Does society put pressure on girls who are pregnant? In the eyes of your school, church, or family, is it OK to be pregnant and not married? If you or your girlfriend got pregnant, what would the reaction be of each group?
2. Pregnancy before marriage is almost always the result of improper behavior. What is the difference between this and any other bad behavior, like lying or cheating on a test?
3. What responsibility does the guy have if his girlfriend is pregnant?
4. What is the emotional result of an abortion?
5. What would happen to a teenager’s life, both good and bad, if she got pregnant and decided not to have an abortion? What happened to Kim in the video?
6. What would be the perfect plan to help a girl who gets pregnant?
7. Who would you talk to if you or a friend got pregnant?
8. What can you do to help a friend who gets pregnant?
9. How can you avoid getting pregnant (or getting a girl pregnant?)

Group Activity (10 Minutes)

Share and discuss #2, #3, #8, and #9. Allow the kids to share their answers with the group, but don’t allow a big argument to ensure. You will tie these answers together in the Wrap-Up.
WRAP UP: ABORTION

ABORTION FOR TEENAGERS IS ALMOST ALWAYS THE RESULT OF SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE.

- Remember: The only difference between a pregnant teen and many of her friends is that she got “caught.”
- Aborting a baby is trying to cover up a mistake, but it brings on tons of guilt and messed up feelings down the road.

CELEBRATE LIFE, DON’T DESTROY IT!

- Everyone is valuable and important. Everyone has something to offer in life.
- If you don’t want your baby, give it to someone who does!

ABORTION SEEMS LIKE THE EASY WAY OUT, BUT DOING THE RIGHT THING IS BETTER.

- Just like the girls in the video said: abortion leaves emotional scars.
- Have the courage to defend your baby. Don’t let anyone force you to get rid of it!

SUPPORT FRIENDS WHO ARE PREGNANT, SO THEY KNOW THEY CAN HAVE THEIR BABY AND NOT BE REJECTED.

- Let your friend know you will stand by them (even though you may get a lot of grief because of it), and tell them that there is help out there for pregnant teens.

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO WILL SUPPORT YOU OR A FRIEND WHO GETS PREGNANT.

- Pregnancy is not going to ruin your life or your friend’s life. There are millions of parents out there just waiting to adopt a baby.
- There are many groups that will help you financially and will help you through school and even give you a place to live. They take care of thousands of girls every year who are pregnant and not married.
- Pass out the following phone numbers, along with numbers for your local Pregnancy Center and adoption agencies.

EMERGENCY HELP NUMBERS:

Pregnancy crisis or post-abortion counseling
1-800-BETHANY
1-800-999-9999
HOMEWORK: ABORTION

HOMEWORK Project: Life or Tissue?

Go to the library and search out information on fetal development, from conception to birth. Research the characteristics of a fetus at conception, 10 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and birth. Also research any information on premature births. Then write a report to include the following:

1. At what stage does a fetus seem like a human life to you, and why?
2. What are the stages of fetal development?
3. When does a fetus have a heartbeat, a brain, and its own blood type?
4. How early are premature babies born, and how little can they weigh at birth?
5. Can a baby be aborted at the same stage of development at which a premature baby can be born?
6. When does life begin, based on your findings, and what surprised you most?

Conclude with your opinion about what is right or wrong about our current laws on abortion, and how they relate to human life or tissue. Comment on why you think the value of an unborn baby is equal or unequal to the value of the mother.

HOMEWORK Project: Who Has Abortions?

Go to the library and look for recent studies on women who’ve had abortions. Planned Parenthood did a survey recently on the issue. Write a report to include the following:

1. What is the makeup of the population that has abortions? (Include race, income, age, religion, etc.)
2. What is the main overall reason for the abortions? (money, convenience, etc.)

Now, interview some of your friends, both guys and girls, and ask them:

1. Why do teenagers get abortions?
2. What would you do if you or your girlfriend got pregnant, and why?
3. What would happen if a girl doesn’t have an abortion?
4. Do you think you or your girlfriend would ever get pregnant?
5. What needs to change in society for teenagers not to get abortions?

Write a two to four page paper about what you think are the reasons teenagers get abortions. Why are these good or bad reasons? Based on your research and answers, explain what surprised you, and what societal norms and values would need to change for teenagers not to have abortions. What would make that come about?