Abortion
A Womb with a View

A Look at the Life of the Unborn
In the beginning sperm joins with ovum (egg) to form one cell - smaller than a grain of salt.

This union brings together the 23 chromosomes from the father with the 23 chromosomes from the mother to make a single new life with 46 chromosomes - the genetic blueprint for the development of every detail this new person will ever have.
Medical Textbook

Human Embryology & Teratology

“Fertilization is an important landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new, genetically distinct human organism is thereby formed...”

NOT a part of the mother’s body!
By Day 21 the heart begins to beat.

By the 4th week, the backbone and muscles are forming. Arms, legs, eyes, and ears have begun to show.

By only Day 20 foundations of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system are already established.

Mother has missed her first period by a week and may suspect she is pregnant.
At Week 5 five fingers can be discerned in the hands. The 
eyes darkened as pigment is 
produced.

Day 40: Brain waves can be 
detected and recorded. Both 
“vital signs” of life present

At Week 6, the liver is now taking over production 
of blood cells, the brain begins to control muscle 
movements and organs.

The mother is about to miss her second period and 
has probably confirmed that she is pregnant.
Week 7 - The embryo begins to move spontaneously. The jaw forms, including teeth buds in the gums. Soon the eyelids will seal to protect the embryo’s developing light-sensitive eyes, and will reopen at about the seventh month.
By the 8th Week the now-called \textit{fetus} (meaning “little one”) is over an inch long. \textit{Everything is now present that will be found in a fully developed adult.}

The \textit{heart} has been beating for more than a month, the \textit{stomach} is producing digestive juices, and the \textit{kidneys} are functioning.

He or she responds to touch and can feel pain.
At Week 9 the little one has fingerprints and will curve its fingers around an object placed in its palm.

By Week 10 the fetus can squint, swallow, and wrinkle its forehead. Hands and feet are perfectly formed.

At the 11th week, the fetus is now about 2 inches long. Urination occurs. Muscle movements are becoming more coordinated.
Now 3 months old, the unborn sleeps, awakens, and exercises its muscles. It “breathes” amniotic fluid to help develop its respiratory system. Fine hair is growing on the head.
At 4 months, the fetus is over 6 inches long and weighs almost a pound. The mother starts to “show.” The baby’s ears are functional. He or she can hear its mother.
The fetus at 5 months is about 9 inches long. The mother has definitely begun to feel movement by now. The unborn child may jump in reaction to startling or loud sounds.
At the 6th month, oil and sweat glands are functioning. The delicate skin is protected from the fetal waters by a special ointment called "vernix."

Born now and given proper care, the baby would survive (viability)
4D Ultrasound
What do you think, is this unborn child an alive human being?
Abortion Methods
Types of Abortion

- Some by surgery, some by medication
- Depends on length of the pregnancy and where the abortion is done
- The later in pregnancy the abortion is done, the more complex the procedure and the higher the risk
Medical Abortion

• Certain drugs are taken to cause the uterus to contract and expel the embryo
• Up to 7-9 weeks of pregnancy
• 3 visits to doctor
• Takes 2-4 weeks
RU 486 is another method used in the first 3 months. In her first visit, the mother will take an RU 486 pill which blocks the action of progesterone, the natural hormone vital to maintaining the rich nutrient lining of the uterus. The developing baby starves as the nutrient lining disintegrates.

At a second visit 36 to 48 hours later, the woman is given a dose of artificial prostaglandins which initiates uterine contractions and usually causes the unborn child to be expelled from the uterus. Most women abort during the 4-hour waiting period at the clinic, but about 30% abort later at home, work, etc., as many as 5 days later. A third follow up visit makes sure the abortion is complete.
Surgical Abortion Methods

Dr. Jack Willke, M.D.
What are your thoughts and feelings after watching this video?
“Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and is unchangeable.”

_Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2271_

Video: Fr. Dale Fushek
Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona
Physical complications after having an abortion
Complications of Surgical Abortion

- 1 in 100 women have complications from an early abortion
- 2 in 100 women have complications from later abortions
- Incompetent cervix:
  - Stretching the cervix open can damage/weaken it
  - In next pregnancy, cervix can open and mother miscarries
Complications of Surgical Abortion

- **Incomplete abortion**
  - Pregnancy is not completely removed
  - Doctor will have to repeat the procedure

- **Severe bleeding**
  - Possible blood transfusion

- **Infection**

- **Damage to internal organs**
  - Perforation (poking through) cervix or uterus
  - Bladder & bowel injury
Complications of Medical Abortion

- The drugs used in medical abortion will cause
  - Bleeding, cramping - sometimes severe
  - Nausea, vomiting, fever, chills

- Incomplete abortion
  - When the pregnancy is not completely removed
  - She will have to have a surgical abortion
Psychological Effects of Abortion
What are your thoughts and feelings after watching this video?

Effects on the father:

- Natural instinct to protect and care for
- Horrific sense of loss – long term

What are some alternatives to abortion?

If you or someone you know has an unexpected pregnancy, where can you go for help?
What would you do?
(Abortion Dilemma Handouts)
Summary Handouts

Closing Prayer