



THE  **FEMINISTS FOR LIFE**
OF AMERICA

AMERICAN
FEMINIST

LEGACY

Frederick Douglass: Suffragist. Abolitionist. Ally.

Learn about this remarkable man, in a new article by Editor Damian J. Geminder, along with other suffragists as part of our Feminist History Course and Quiz series, found on our Herstory page at feministsforlife.org.

FFL's First Wave Feminist History Course Quiz

*Frederick Douglass:
Suffragist. Abolitionist. Ally.*

Why do we celebrate
Frederick Douglass'
birthday on Valentine's
Day?



FFL's First Wave Feminist History Course Quiz

*Frederick Douglass:
Suffragist. Abolitionist. Ally.*

What was the name of
Frederick Douglass' first
abolitionist newspaper?



FFL's First Wave Feminist History Course Quiz

*Frederick Douglass:
Suffragist. Abolitionist. Ally.*

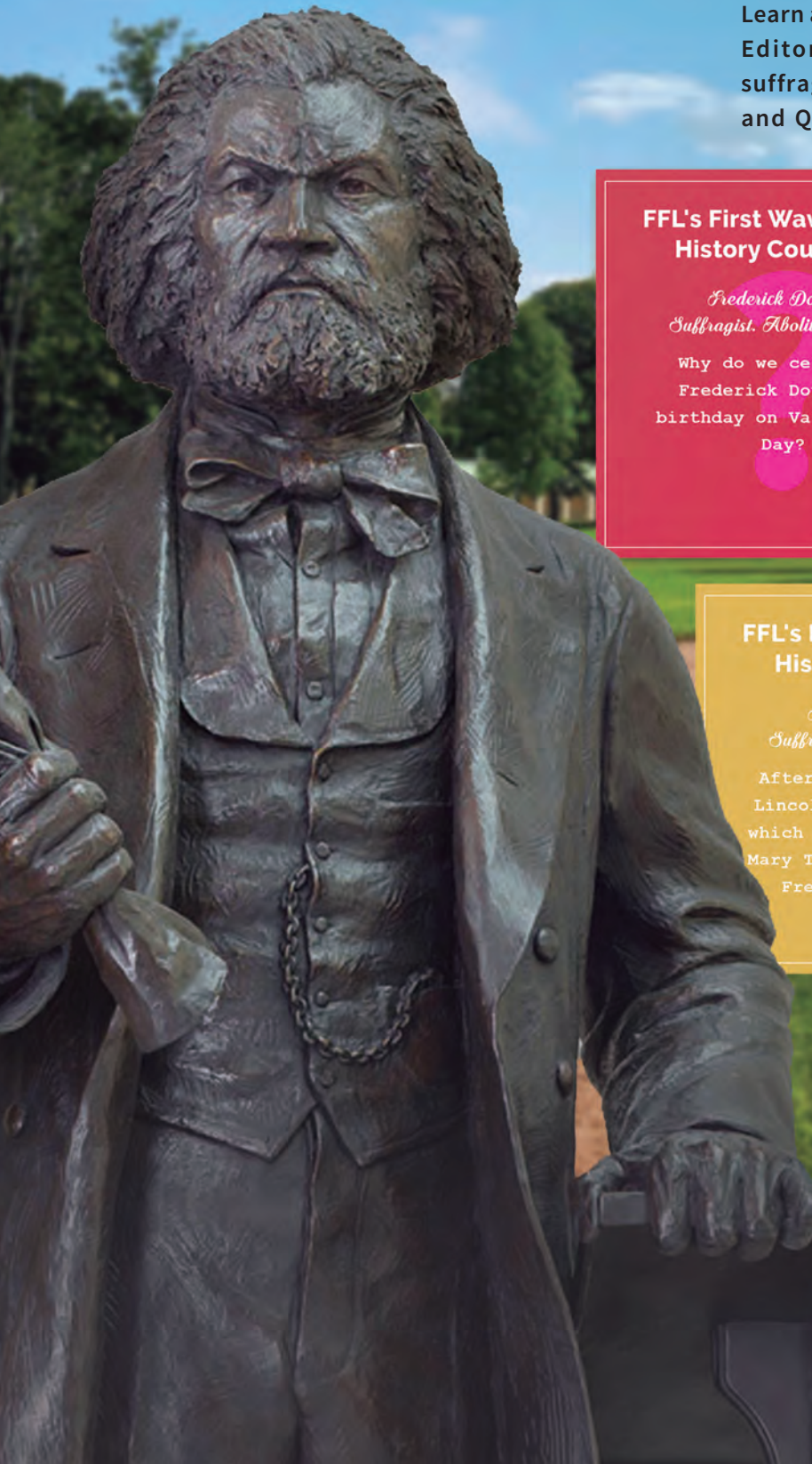
After President Abraham
Lincoln's assassination,
which item did First Lady
Mary Todd Lincoln gift to
Frederick Douglass?



FFL's First Wave Feminist History Course Quiz

*Frederick Douglass:
Suffragist. Abolitionist. Ally.*

Frederick Douglass was the
only African-American of
either sex to attend which
historic event?



Dear Feminists for Life,



There are few moments more precious than the first tender embrace of a parent cuddling a newborn. Parents dream about all those precious firsts—and passing on their values to the next generation. The challenges have never been greater.

Parents work to instill the value of every life—only to be asked by a child, what is an abortion?

How do we pass on our legacy of pro-life feminist values when children are being taught that life itself is of no worth by the world around them?

How do we prepare teens for—and protect them from—challenges scarcely imagined even a decade ago?

This issue is dedicated to the next generation. Each of us has contributions to make to them, our precious legacies. What could be more important?

Because women deserve better,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Serrin".

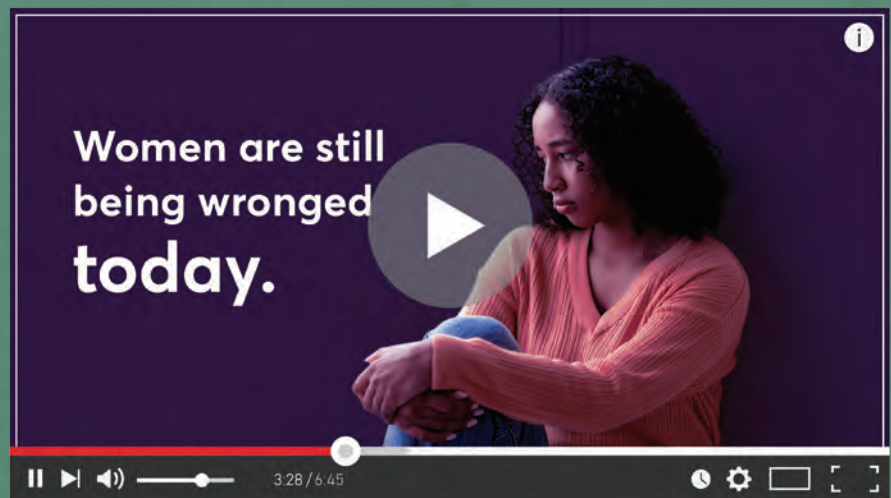
Serrin M. Foster
President

In celebration of Women's History Month, we revealed Mattie Brinkerhoff's powerful 1869 quote to new audiences, "When a man steals to satisfy hunger, we may safely conclude that there is something wrong in society—so when a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is an evidence that either by education or circumstances she has been greatly wronged."

She still speaks to us today.

Please share our new videos available on our YouTube channel and Rumble.

New video released!



THE AMERICAN FEMINIST®

A publication of Feminists for Life of America

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Established in 1972, Feminists for Life of America is a nonsectarian, nonpartisan, grassroots organization that seeks real solutions to the challenges women face. Our efforts are shaped by the core feminist values of justice, nondiscrimination, and nonviolence. Feminists for Life of America continues the tradition of early American feminists such as Susan B. Anthony, who opposed abortion.

Feminists for Life of America recognizes that abortion is a reflection that our society has failed to meet the needs of women. We are dedicated to systematically eliminating the root causes that drive women to abortion—primarily lack of practical resources and support—through holistic, woman-centered solutions. Women deserve better than abortion.

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Spring/Summer 2023

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LEGACY

CONTENTS

2 Introduction

Serrin M. Foster

5 Starting Small: Raising Pro-Life Little Ones

Rebecca Webb

7 Mommy, What Is an Abortion?

Cheryl Blake

11 How to Raise a Pro-life FeMENist

Bethanie Ryan

14 Parenting Test

Colette Moran

16 Lives Count More Than Likes: Alarming Studies Prove Girls Deserve Better

Serrin M. Foster

18 Words Matter

Sharon Serratore

WHEN A MAN STEALS TO SATISFY HUNGER, WE MAY SAFELY CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG IN SOCIETY—SO WHEN A WOMAN DESTROYS THE LIFE OF HER UNBORN CHILD, IT IS AN EVIDENCE THAT EITHER BY EDUCATION OR CIRCUMSTANCES SHE HAS BEEN GREATLY WRONGED.

—Mattie Brinkerhoff,
The Revolution, September 2, 1869





STARTING SMALL: RAISING PRO-LIFE LITTLE ONES

BY REBECCA WEBB

“Mama, I was dancing even before I was born!”

My 4-year-old daughter twirls around the room, her golden hair catching the light as she leaps and spins. Truly, my girl was born to dance—but as her mother, I know that her feistiness and love of movement actually started before her birth... and even better, so does she.

Growing up, I was lucky to have a physician father who taught me about the humanity of the unborn from a very early age. While I may not be able to show my children the heartbeat and movements of a tiny baby on an ultrasound as he once did for me, I *can* instill in them an understanding of the realness and humanity of society’s most vulnerable members in other ways.

Each time they ask to look at their baby books, I point out their *true* “first pictures”—snapshots taken inside the womb.

I tell them about the glimpses of their personalities that I got before I ever saw their faces—how my daughter still loves salty food just like the pickles she once made me crave, and my son has a sweet tooth that

“
Mama, I was dancing even before I was born!

”
once left me dreaming about Oreos and chocolate cake for nine months straight.

How the nurse commented on our “little dancer” when we saw her nonstop movements on the 12- and 20-week ultrasounds, while my much more laidback son was so sluggish it took us 20 minutes to convince him to roll over every time the doctor wanted to do a growth scan.

Beyond making sure they know that their life stories started in the womb, not the day of their birth, I try to find other ways to teach them that *all* life has value.

When we see people with disabilities, we talk about the many ways they are just like us—as well as the ways they are special and brave because of the challenges they have overcome.

When we see a mother begging outside church with her baby, we ask her what size diapers her child needs and try to find some at the local grocery store.

Finally, we talk about courage—what it means to speak up for what’s right even when we’re scared, to protect people who are smaller than us, and to do the brave thing even when it’s hard.

These lessons may be small, but they are important—just like my toddlers, and just like the lives I am teaching them to value.

“

Someday when my daughter grows up, I will tell her about the injustice of abortion and the societal evils that make so many women believe they have no other choice. For now, though, I will shield her from this cruel tragedy that pits mothers against their children.

”

In these little ways, I hope I am planting seeds in my children that will someday help them be advocates for life. Even when it would be easier to deny the humanity of the unborn. Even when it’s not popular. Even when it requires great courage.

Someday when my daughter grows up, I will tell her about the injustice of abortion and the societal evils that make so many women believe they have no other choice. For now, though, I will shield her from this cruel tragedy that pits mothers against their children.

There will be plenty of time to talk about the “culture of death.”

But today, while she is innocent and dancing in my living room, is the perfect moment to start teaching her to be pro-life.

**Live the Legacy.
Leave a Legacy.**



Please consider leaving a legacy by including Feminists for Life of America as a beneficiary of your estate so that our vital work may continue for the next generation. Please let us know so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.

Thank you!



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MOMMY, WHAT IS AN ABORTION?

BY CHERYL BLAKE



No mother, no father, should be surprised when children ask: What does “abortion” mean?

The term sneaks into our lives via the media: news, dramatic programming, political coverage, and easy to reach social media sites. No longer is the question whether a child will be exposed to some comment or television program; it is rather a matter of when.

There is not enough bubble wrap to protect children from hearing the term abortion, often defined by media and politicians as a woman’s right or a drive-by gory image on the side of a truck. The best we can do is answer children’s questions and arm them with facts.

Matching answers with the child’s stage in life makes sense. While supplying them with information appropriate to their age and maturity—describing the beautiful development of human beings from the moment of creation—we can also correct misinformation. This task may sound intimidating, but a simply planned approach is possible. From toddlers to teenagers, our children need our explanations; they need knowledge from caring adults.

There is not enough bubble wrap to protect children from hearing the term abortion.

Tiny Tots

Preschoolers are naturally inquisitive. As their worlds open, they want to know the what, the how, the why. Inundating them with knowledge they do not understand or really want can confuse 3- and 4-year-olds. *Just stick to what they are asking, and do not supply answers to what they haven’t asked.*

Young Bobbie might ask where his baby cousin came from. After his mom gives him a pretty thorough explanation of pregnancy, Bobbie says,

“OK, but is she from Cincinnati like Aunt Jane?” Mom has just covered some sex education Bobbie did not want or need to know.

It’s a good idea to keep any explanation of what abortion means to a minimum at the preschool age. That a baby grows in a mommy’s “tummy” has probably already been part of the child’s growing awareness of the world. If you’re not sure of the child’s previous knowledge, just ask.

Just stick to what they are asking, and do not supply answers to what they haven’t asked.

What does she or he think abortion means? Reinforce any factual interpretation. Correct misinformation, again adhering to simplicity, rather than overwhelming the child with adult terminology. Once the concept of pregnancy is clear, then abortion can be explained at a rudimentary level. For instance, tell the child that the mother decides to stop the pregnancy. Use vocabulary appropriate to the child’s age. Keep it simple but truthful. If further questions ensue, like how it is done, say that a doctor helps the mother end the pregnancy. Any more detailed explanation might disturb such a young child. Again, keep it down-to-earth, and answer only the questions asked.

Beautiful visuals can help reinforce the humanity of the preborn child for preschoolers—especially if you have ultrasound imagery of your child before birth. Children love to see photos of themselves. Show them a beautiful ultrasound image of themselves at 20-something weeks gestation and compare it with a newborn photo, a first birthday photo, and a recent photo. Preschoolers will love seeing themselves at different stages of development.

Schooling Students

By the time they embark on elementary school, children can handle more of an explanation. You might offer more details: The baby is a person in the womb, abortion stops the baby from growing anymore, or abortion kills the baby. Simplicity is still appropriate. Using terms like “die” or “kill” might be a step too far at this age, but you can gauge the readiness of early elementary children with thoughtful questioning.



Although the act of aborting a baby is wrong, stressing the evil at this stage of childhood may be too much. However, even first graders have probably been exposed to some violence on television or in video games. They can discern good and evil, so saying abortion is wrong is appropriate.

By the middle grades—fourth through sixth—sex education has probably been broached at home and in school. Details of pregnancy have been discussed. Keeping up with what children are learning in school helps parents to decide what to say about abortion. Explain that mothers and fathers decide to end their preborn baby’s life. Basically, medical personnel kill the baby and dispose of it. Call abortion a sin, if that makes sense to you; definitely point out the evil. Emphasize the personhood of the baby. Use clear terms that educate, rather than frighten or condemn, and treat the child with respect. Aware of condescending language, these fourth and fifth graders appreciate being treated as though they can understand adult concepts.

Using language they can understand without talking down to them can go a long way toward acceptance of your stance on abortion. Introducing the belief that women deserve better than abortion, and that there are alternatives and support, offers a framework that parent and child can use as the child matures.

Middle schoolers—seventh and eighth graders or tweens—deal with raging hormones and peer pressure. Accepting peer attitudes about abortion, whether correct or not, is too easy. Make it just as easy to listen to you when it comes to abortion. By this point in their lives, tweens know that a preborn baby is a person, or they should know it. Reiterate that fact and reinforce it with a review of the baby’s development in the womb. Pictures will help. Be clear that abortion is wrong, that it is the taking of a life. Ask what peers, or adults like teachers, have said about abortion, but remain nonthreatening even when correcting any misinformation. As the adult, you can later deal with other adults trying to influence children inappropriately. Be open to any questions the tweens may have, and keep the answers to the point.

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The pro-life atmosphere you have nurtured faces strong opposition.
”

Since social media plays such a large part in middle schoolers’ lives, caution them that believing everything that they see on YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, etc. can be a big mistake. The dangers of social media have probably already been emphasized at school and at home, but a reminder would not hurt. For Instagram users, suggest they follow accounts such as GirlsDeserveBetter, which focuses on positive and supportive messages appropriate for both genders. Boys are also vulnerable to exploitation and could use the information on this site.

Children of high school age are hovering between immaturity and adulthood. They are forming beliefs and attitudes that can last a lifetime, but they can still rely on peers and social and other media. Hearing conflicting viewpoints on abortion confuses teenagers and makes them wonder to whom they owe allegiance. Arguments that say a woman should have control over her own body, should have privacy, and so forth, can be compelling to a young woman or man.

The pro-life atmosphere you have nurtured faces strong opposition. Planned Parenthood and many government officials work hard to keep the cause for abortion in the public's view via rhetoric and legislation. Even television programming and movies that promote casual sex with no consequences can quietly undermine pro-life beliefs.

“
**Pregnancy can become very real
for high schoolers when one of
their peers becomes pregnant.**
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Add peers and respected adults challenging pro-life advocates, and the opposition is formidable. When dealing with high schoolers, the temptation might be to combat arguments one by one, but remaining positive is a better choice. Discussing, rather than arguing, shows respect, something teenagers crave.

First, make it clear that you are indeed pro-woman and pro-life. You might talk about the possible physical and psychological problems with abortion, including the abortion pill. That is not being judgmental; it is reality. A positive strategy of showing the baby as a separate being can be achieved by introducing some ultrasound pictures. A good source of 3D ultrasounds at different stages of pregnancy can be found in a video on PregnancyChat.com: “9 Months in the Womb.”

Talk about alternatives and community support for a pregnant woman. Show them what is available for women at WomenDeserveBetter.com, whether they choose to place the baby for adoption or be a parent. Pregnancy can become very real for high schoolers when one of their peers becomes pregnant. Address that reality and talk about the responsibility of both the mom and the dad. Under the heading “Love,” there is some great information about fathers and an article debunking common myths about adoption. The website also has articles that help parents get the physical and mental support they need in areas like child care and housing. The heading “Live,” for instance, has some articles about self-help. Perusing the website yourself and summarizing the information may work for you, but reading together allows your teenager to internalize the topics. Remember to address any questions.

Keep the Conversation Going

As they grow, help them find a circle of support so they know they are not alone in their pro-woman, pro-life beliefs. Bring them or send them with their classmates to a March for Life. Introduce them to staff at a local pregnancy center where they could volunteer. Help them appreciate the legacy they have inherited by exploring our rich feminist history on our website. Remember, FFL offers resources for high schools and colleges. And when your children get to college, they can advocate for resources, help host diaper drives for moms in need, and strive for other holistic solutions .

Whether answering, “Mommy, what is an abortion?” or discussing the stages of the preborn baby’s development, keep your audience in mind by using appropriate language and sticking to the point. Respecting everyone from the preschooler to the high schooler sets the tone and allows them to ask questions. Some of the above suggestions are fluid. Your preteen may be ready for the ultrasounds, or you may decide to introduce WomenDeserveBetter.com earlier. Trust that you know your child and that you will be able to address questions about abortion and offer age-appropriate information. □

HOW TO RAISE A PRO-LIFE FEMENIST

BY BETHANIE RYAN



Raising a kid can be hard in this current world. They are constantly getting conflicting messages about everything. Media is everywhere. How do I help my 10-year-old, who is currently digging through my kitchen for his 20th snack of the day, become a good citizen? How do I raise a pro-life feMENist?

First and foremost, parents realize early that you can't control everything your kid is going to have opinions about. If they could, there would be no annoying kids' fads or TV shows. All you can do is introduce them to ideas and help them see your perspective. Ultimately, it is their decision to agree with you or not.

With that in mind, we are often worried about "ruining their innocence" or explaining something they can't understand. Innocence isn't really something you can ruin. All children are innocent by definition, regardless of their knowledge or experience.

Children understand a lot more than we give them credit for, and sometimes they understand more than we do. Their innate sense of justice often goes far and beyond ours. They see people suffering and want to fix it, while we see all sorts of prejudices and politics which can cloud our judgment.

I noticed early on that my son sided with whomever he perceived to be the underdog. Girls were usually included in that list. I'd hear him get into arguments defending girls in his class. I think a lot of boys innately sense that the girls around them need defending. Some boys have that drive more strongly than others, depending on their other personality traits. My son is mouthy and stubborn, so he has a double dose. This is a fine line to walk. I want to encourage that

Photo previous page: FFL Board Treasurer Michael Sciscenti and son Paul share our pro-woman, pro-life messages at the March for Life in Washington, DC.

sense of justice, but also don't want him to be getting in fights every day or treating the girls in his life like they're completely helpless. I've taken it largely situation by situation. Sometimes, he's in the right; sometimes, he's in the wrong and he needs help seeing which is which.

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Don't be afraid to talk about abortion. [...] Now, with the internet and social media, kids, for good or ill, know more and earlier.

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It is also good to feed that sense of justice and ask them to look for the roots of injustice. Something feels wrong to them and they need to be taught to explore what it is that feels wrong. Where is that injustice coming from? How can I really help things at the roots?

Don't be afraid to talk about abortion. I remember having opinions about abortion when I was in elementary school. Even back in the '90s when I was in school, I was well aware of the debates going on among the adults in the world, and all I had was cable TV. Now, with the internet and social media, kids, for good or ill, know more and earlier.

When they ask what abortion is, you may be worried about hurting them. You do want to make it something they can understand and, if you have a particularly sensitive or younger child, something they can grasp without being traumatized. But, you don't have to make it into something it's not. Kids appreciate simple, upfront, honest answers. If I remember correctly, I answered, "Abortion is when a woman for some reason gets rid of the baby growing in her." Knowing my son has a very black and white worldview, I know I need to temper my answer with shades of gray.

How to Raise a Pro-Life “feMENist”

Which brings us to the synthesis: To be a pro-life feminist, you work to meet the needs of the mother and the needs of the baby. We refuse to choose. I want my son to refuse to choose, too. So, when the topic comes up, I try to make sure that he knows that many women who have abortions feel scared, alone, don't have the resources they need, or are being bullied into it. So we need to help her to know she is not alone and that there are lots of people who want to help her *and* her baby.

Pre-COVID, I had my son help with our church's annual symbolic baby shower that provides material resources for our local pregnancy resource center. Now that pandemic restrictions are easing, I plan on having him help serve meals at the homeless shelter. I want my son to know people who are in tough situations so he can sympathize and understand.

Speaking of which, I have tried to make sure from the very first birds-and-the-bees talk, I will get angry if he pushes or participates in an abortion. This is part of keeping an open communication in all areas. If your children know they can come to you for small things, like petty arguments with friends or silly ideas that pop in their heads, they know they can come to you with the big stuff later on.

Raising a pro-life feMENist is a lifelong job. You can continue to introduce him to your way of thinking every day in a million little ways. You cannot completely control the outcome, but you can make sure he knows your perspective and understands the issues surrounding abortion. Hopefully, all of these efforts will lead to a strong, thoughtful gentleman who will always fight for good. □

Some Practical Tips for Raising Pro-life Feminists

- Keep communication open in all areas. If a child doesn't feel comfortable coming to you with one thing, it will quickly grow to other things. If they say something that bugs you, check yourself and keep responding with compassion.
- Teach them embryology. They will likely get a very basic lesson on it in school. They will need some supplement at home to really see how beautiful and important the unborn child is.
- Don't leave sex education to the schools. The birds-and-the-bees talk isn't just one class in school, it is a lifelong discussion of what sexuality is all about. There are many resources out there in whatever tradition your family follows to teach children about sex.
- Teach your children how to talk with and listen to a friend who is facing an unplanned pregnancy. Make sure they know what resources are available in their community. Better yet, encourage them to volunteer with these resources.
- Take them to events like March for Life. Encourage them to join pro-life organizations.
- Illustrate the conflicts that can arise between pregnancy and work or school, when it comes up in conversation or experience. On the one hand, help your children know that no conflict is insurmountable. On the other, empower them to empower the women around them who face those conflicts and to work to eliminate the root causes that drive women to abortion.
- Teach them our basic pro-life feminist principles: non-discrimination, non-violence and justice for all – and how to share them in a way that recognizes the humanity of all people.
- Teach them how to advocate for the pro-life feminist position in a calm, kind manner with the conviction knowing they stand on the shoulders of our feminist foremothers.



PARENTING TEST

BY COLETTE MORAN

When I first heard of the new ABC program "The Parent Test"—based upon a hit Australian show "Parental Guidance"—I was thoroughly confused as to what approach this show could take in presenting 12 different parenting styles to determine which is "best." As a mom of 7 who feels her parenting is not only a mixed bag of styles—changing with my moods and circumstances—but is also highly specific to each of my very individualistic children, I wondered: How could anyone determine a single style as being the best?

So I read up on this show's format and content and I have to say, it does not sound like anyone is going to walk away with any true sense of what is best for everyone. But perhaps while watching, they will find tips that they can apply to various scenarios that will work well for their individual children. (Keeping in mind that can only happen if they can stomach watching well-meaning parents and their children being put to the test under the ruthless scrutiny of the cameras, the show's parenting experts, and the other competitors.)

For what it's worth, the 12 styles are the not-really-comparable "Intensive," "High-Achievement," "Disciplined," "Free-Range," "Natural," "Helicopter," "Child-Led," "Routine," "Negotiation," "Traditional," "Strict," and "New Age." The families are of varying parental demographics and number of children (from a single child to six siblings), and each family is living a very different life—further stretching the concept of believing that any single parenting style could fit every child let alone family. Apparently, the existence of individual differences amongst siblings is not really presented, which seems incongruous. And tackling tests only within their family unit—without the support of extended family or communities—isn't really realistic. Specifically, "stranger danger" roleplaying to test the children's reactions seems far too traumatizing.

But let's look at the positive aspects. The families chosen do present many of the fears that American parents face today: a mom who came from an abusive home wants to avoid perpetuating the cycle of abuse, a dad who experienced racism

Parenting Test

wants to help his son navigate obstacles, a mom raising kids in New York City is concerned how the rising crime rate will affect her daughters. Some of the scenarios that test the families definitely are not likely to happen, despite most parents' fears, but it cannot hurt to learn a few tactical ways to deal with them. There are definitely noteworthy moments. (My hope is that parents who are faced with any difficult situation and “fail” even when armed with the best strategies, will accept their humanity, learn from that situation, and not beat themselves up with regret.)

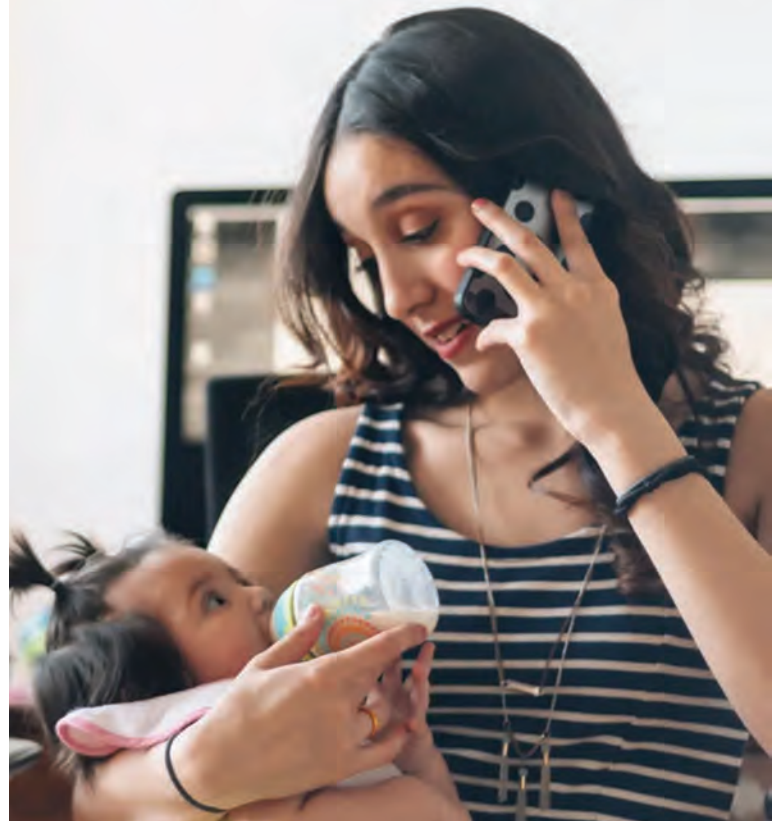
“
**My best piece of parenting advice
is to be open to all advice offered.**

”
*My best piece of parenting advice is to be open to all advice offered. So, in watching this show, observe and consider jotting down an idea or two. Sure, much of it you may never use because either it does not apply to you or goes against your personal beliefs or common sense. But put it in your little bag of parenting tricks anyway. You never know—one day you'll be at the end of your rope. Every other approach will have failed, and you'll remember that quirky piece of advice. Out of desperation, you will give it a try and *shazam!* It works!*

A critique of the show by author Lydia Kiesling summed it up nicely: "I rooted for all the parents, even the ones whose views are antithetical to mine, because parenting is hard, and our society loves to judge parents while withholding material support... As I watched the show, I listened to advice and took notes from some of the parents. But I'm suspicious of the idea that every child is just a few 'style' tweaks away from a wonderful life... For all its talk of optimizing, the show ignores one of the main things that has helped me be a better parent: a little help from my friends."

Women are most often
the **primary caregivers**
in the family.

**Treat the woman in your life
to a new smartphone cover to
remind her that help is here to
Work, Learn, Live, and Love better.**





LIVES COUNT MORE THAN LIKES:

ALARMING STUDIES PROVE GIRLS DESERVE BETTER

BY PRESIDENT SERRIN M. FOSTER

The U.S. Surgeon General has confirmed that 13-year-olds are *way* too young to be online. But that is exactly when YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and other apps allow them to join. Most troubling of all, sex predators know this, too.

Abuse and violence against children have risen exponentially. John Pizzuro, CEO of Raven, a lobbying group focused on ending child exploitation, testified in February 2023 before the Senate Judiciary Committee: “The most staggering increase we faced was self-generated sexual abuse videos of children ages 7, 8, and 9. There is even a post named ‘The Art of Seduction,’ that explains how to seduce children that has been read more than 54,000 times.”

The younger children start, the more they can’t stop interacting on social media. Mitch Prinstein from the American Psychological Association told Congress that teens “are biologically incapable of stopping themselves from incessant use of these platforms.” Consider the impact: One in three teens now reports contemplating taking their own life.

Since COVID isolation, one-third of boys now feel sad or hopeless, up from one in five in 2019. As horrifying as that news is, it has gotten far worse and more serious as **57% of girls feel sad or helpless**, up from 36%. This reflects a 38% increase for boys and a stunning 60% increase for girls.



Let your parents protect you.

Girls Deserve Better



Lives Count More Than Likes: Alarming Studies Prove Girls Deserve Better

Pew Research revealed 97% of teens are on social media — COVID intensified this usage. We have NO idea what long-term impact this will make, for good and for bad. We must prevent the worst abuse and violence, including predators who will take teens to an abortion clinic to cover their crimes.

Still, social media giants have apparently knowingly exploited teens. Consider this: CEOs of tech companies won't let *their* kids have access to addictive smartphones. Contracts with their nannies even state this.

Like FFL student activists today, many of our Board members and supporters were college students, interns, and young leaders in the pro-life movement. Now they are parents and grandparents, godparents, aunts and uncles, and mentors. No matter your relationships, we recognize the short- and long-term urgency to reach the next generation through both our Teen and College Outreach Programs.

We need to reach today's teens and college students before they become the victims of abuse from predators and bullies. We must instill the value of their lives and, someday, the lives of their children — all children, born and unborn.

For this reason, FFL has expanded our efforts to reach teens, especially at-risk younger girls, before they hit college and the workplace. With your help, teens will grow up to understand that LIVES count more than “likes.”

So, what can we do?

- Keep children under age 16 off smartphones. Yes, we know this can be hard to do!
- Stay aware of the many different apps out there. TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat are well known but what about Twitch, WhatsApp, weBelong, Caffeine, Kik, or Discord? The landscape of social media and messaging apps is constantly changing. Talk with the teens in your life about what apps they are using or hear about friends using.
- When they are mature enough, share our Girls Deserve Better® Instagram page filled with shareable memes and short videos containing messages of empowerment, affirming the strength and dignity of teens and young women—and yes, warning teens as part of our holistic effort to protect our daughters. (We have refused to join TikTok for other, even more serious threats against children.)
- Review our posts, then send us ideas you may have for brief messages to teens.
- Support our efforts to push out *positive* content to those who are already online.

When you don't know what to do...

What would you say to a friend in the same situation?

Then do it.

Be your own best friend.

**Girls
Deserve
Better®**

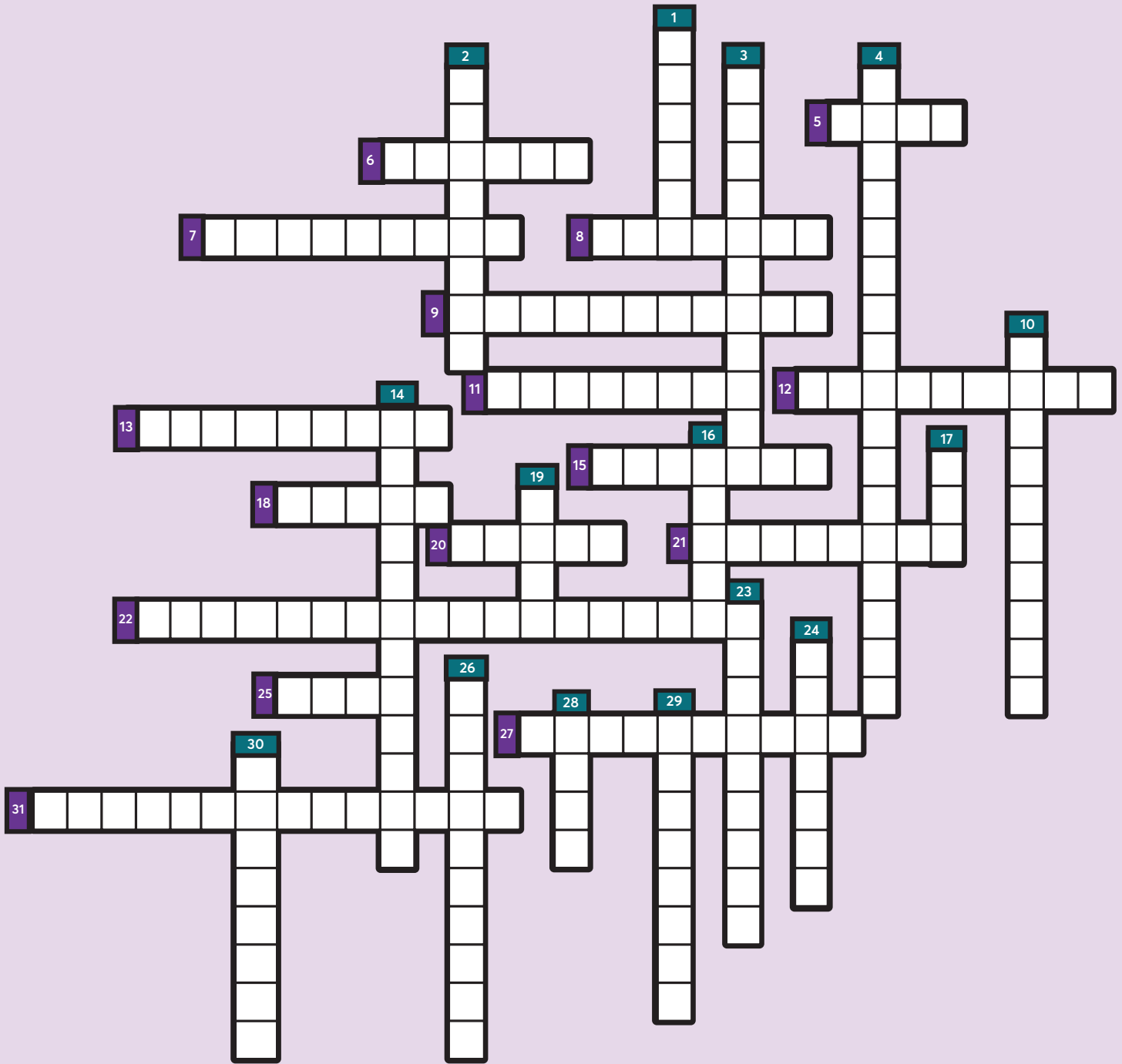


What message would you have wanted to hear as a teen? What do you want teens to know now?

Send your idea of short messages to info@feministsforlife.org.

WORDS MATTER

BY SHARON SERRATORE



Across: 5. Womb - 6. Family - 7. Fostering - 8. Justice - 9. Seneca Falls - 11. Adoption - 12. Alice Paul - 13. Pregnancy - 15. Respect - 18. Media - 20. Voice - 21. Advocacy - 22. Girls Deserve Better - 25. CHIP - 27. Ultrasound - 30. Wollstonecraft
Down: 1. Campus - 2. Feminism - 3. Nonviolence - 4. Nondiscrimination - 10. March Forth - 14. Child support - 16. Peace - 17. Joy - 19. Life - 23. Resources - 24. Dancing - 26. Suffragist - 28. Love - 29. Abortion

Across

5. Where peace begins
6. Group of persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption
7. Temporary care for another's child
8. Fair and righteous treatment
9. Site of first U.S. women's rights convention
11. Legal assumption of care for another's child
12. Author of the original Equal Rights Amendment
13. Gestation
15. Consideration of others
18. Main means of mass communication
20. Ability to express oneself
21. Standing up for people or causes
22. FFL website geared to tweens and teens
25. Children's Health Insurance Program
27. Noninvasive medical scan
31. Early feminist, mother of Mary Shelly

Down

1. College or university grounds
2. Advocacy of women's rights
3. Use of peaceful means
4. Not making unfair distinction
10. FFL rallying cry
14. Maintenance of a child by the noncustodial parent
16. Tranquility, harmony, or security
17. Delight, jubilation, or exultation
19. Existence
23. Means of supplies or support
24. Activity of the child in the womb (and later in life!)
26. Early activist who fought for voting rights of women
28. Deep affection
29. Deliberate termination of pregnancy
30. Treating all aspects, not just part



So you said you want to
**make a
difference.**

Intern or volunteer with
Feminists for Life and
make the difference
of a lifetime.

Contact info@feministsforlife.org.



FEMINISTS FOR LIFE
OF AMERICA

PO Box 151567
Alexandria, VA 22315

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss a message.

Find daily inspiration and affirmation for teens on [instagram.com@girlsdeservebetter](https://www.instagram.com/girlsdeservebetter).

Treat them to a new smartphone cover. Shop now on [feministsforlife.org/covetablestuff](https://www.feministsforlife.org/covetablestuff).

The downloadable screen saver is free.

