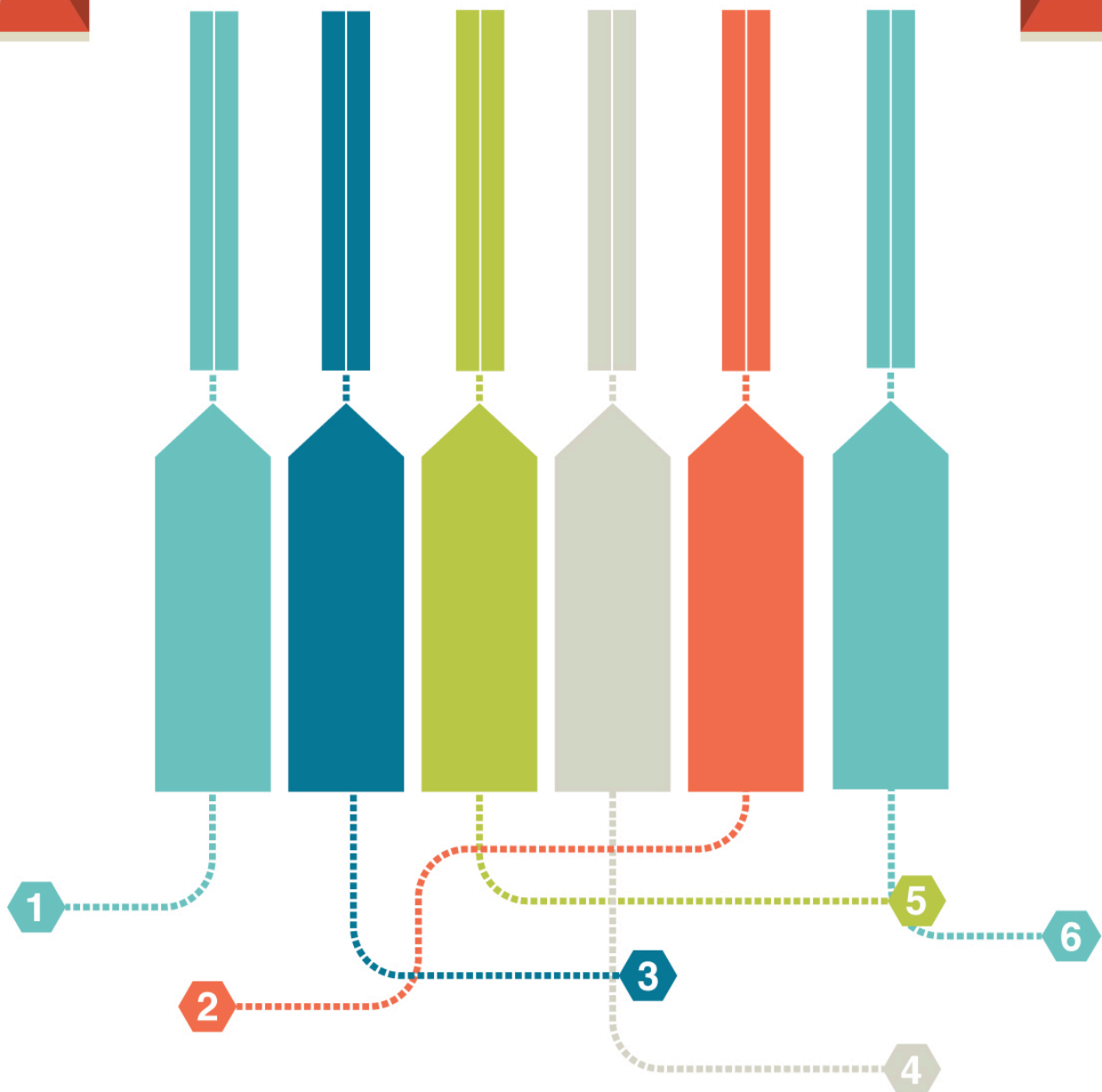




6 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR KIDS PRO-LIFE



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Raising children is no easy task! Whether you have one or eight, your duty as a parent to love, care for, and educate each child is a daily effort. Moreover, pro-life parents take on the additional challenge of instilling in their children a deep respect for all human life. However, all-too-often our pro-life teachings are up against a hostile environment. In particular, high school and college students face mounting pressure to yield in their beliefs as they leave home for the first-time.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of the abortion giant Planned Parenthood, **47% of women entering college identify themselves as pro-life, however, only 27% remain pro-life at graduation. Furthermore, college-aged women obtain approximately 46% of all abortions nationally.** Planned Parenthood and other abortion advocates have heavily targeted college students through peer-to-peer marketing, making their message seem mainstream and “cool.” Furthermore, these advocates establish clinics nearby college campuses and build a presence at health centers on campus. How do we encourage our children to fight for life when abortion advocates, the media, and society are constantly bombarding them with a culture of death?

Now, more than ever, we need to prepare our kids to face the hostile culture and climate that dominates most of the universities in the United States. In order to prepare our children for this, we need to offer them tools to combat the culture and defend their position to their peers. Here are 6 easy ways to keep your child pro-life!

1. Model Moral Absolutes

One of the big challenges on a college campus is the philosophy of moral relativism. This philosophy feeds the idea that abortion, as well as many other activities that are harmful, can be okay given the right set of circumstances. Moral relativism says truth is in the eye of the beholder – what is right for one person may be wrong for another, but both are equally valid. It may be morally okay to do XYZ in this situation, but it is not morally okay to do XYZ in that situation.

In the abortion debate, this use of relativism gravely diminishes the value of human beings. It suggests that some persons may be valued and granted rights as a human being, while others may not fit the standard. It creates a scale for the value of human life based on individual circumstances rather than a universal respect for all lives. For this

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reason, we must insist on absolutes. Abortion is either right—or it is wrong. It is either the killing of a human being—or it is not the killing of a human being. There can be no gray area.

Your kids need you to model and teach moral absolutes. They will be up against a culture that can rationalize almost any behavior, and they will need practice to be able to critically think through behaviors and actions to see the ultimate outcome both physically and spiritually. Your example at home will prepare them for them when are out on their own.

2. Study Prenatal Development

Teach your child about prenatal development through descriptions and images. This will help them to understand the humanity of the person in the womb and identify with them. When one understands that the child in the womb is a human being, just like any born person, the act of abortion can be clearly seen as unnatural. Moreover, your kids can use this knowledge to explain and defend their beliefs to their peers, their opponents, and abortion-minded individuals.

Encourage your child to study the growth and development of the preborn so that they are knowledgeable of the biological changes throughout each day, week and month of pregnancy. [The Endowment for Human Development](#) has an excellent, detailed website that explains the development of the unborn in a scientific, yet easy to understand way. This knowledge will reaffirm their beliefs, and it will be effective in convincing others as well.



3. Teach Apologetics

By developing their moral compass, you help direct your child's actions and improve their ability to morally respond to challenges and circumstances. Next, you must improve their

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ability to give smart and reasonable arguments to combat abortion. By teaching your kids ethics and apologetics, they will be grounded and ready to give an answer to their peers. In preparing your children to reasonably and effectively answer questions of life issues, it will be especially important to help them answer the “hard case” situations- such as the health of the mother, fetal deformity, incest, and rape. With this ability, they will keep their feet far from the slippery slope of exceptions and misplaced compassion, and they will hopefully guide their peers to the truth through both their actions and their words.

Three things to improve your apologetics

1. Read these books
 - The Case for Life (Scott Klusendorf)
 - Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Questions (Randy Alcorn)
2. Consider participating in these programs
 - SFLA National Conference
 - SFLA Regional Conferences
3. Listen to or watch videos and clips of apologetics trainings and debates
 - Some lectures are provided on CD by several organizations
 - Can be found online on pro-life organization websites or on YouTube

4. Get Involved in Pro-Life Activities

The best way to stay pro-life is to surround yourself with like-minded people who can help you form your pro-life arguments and stand with you. The support of a group assures that you are not alone in your position. Encourage your student to get involved with the pro-life group on campus! If there isn't a group on campus, support your child in starting one by contacting Students for Life at info@studentsforlife.org.

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In addition to getting involved with a pro-life student group, it is also important to participate in pro-life events, like activism events on campus and in the community. Some great campaigns and programs that could benefit your child include:

- 40 Days for Life campaign
- National Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity (Every October, www.silentday.org)
- National Pro-Life Chalk Day (Every September, www.nationalprolifechalkday.org)
- National March for Life (Every January, www.marchforlife.org)

Encouraging your kids to get involved in pro-life activities and helping them to understand why these events matter will go a long way in solidifying their pro-life position!

5. Show the Reality of Abortion

Show your child the after-effects of abortion—both the physical and the emotional. Pro-life websites like AfterAbortion.org give exhaustive lists of the side effects experienced after abortion. This information, coupled with the testimonies from post-abortive men and women on SilentNoMoreAwareness.org, can help your kids understand the consequences of abortion from people who have experienced it first-hand. This will equip them to talk to peers who may be considering abortion about the deep pain of loss and the possible physical complications that result from abortions.

Another important lesson is sharing the deaths that have occurred through abortion, lawsuits brought against shady abortionists, and hazardous abortion facilities (like Kermit Gosnell's abortion facility in Philadelphia). Go to the "[Blackmun Wall](#)" to read the stories of over 347 women who have died from "safe and legal" abortions. Show your child the website AbortionDocs.org to teach them more about the conditions of abortion clinics, the lawsuits involved, and the abortionists who threaten the lives of children and mothers.

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6. Inspire Heroism

Facing the challenges of our society and the questions of their peers, it can be hard for a pro-life student to remain enthusiastic and confident in their battle. As a parent, you can be encouraging your kids to look up to other heroes and to embrace their attitudes towards their battles. The pro-life movement represents an opportunity for your child to be involved in something so much greater than themselves, and your student needs to recognize that they play a vital role in changing hearts and saving lives!

When you talk about historical heroes or watch movies like *Amazing Grace*, you can easily compare it to the abortion holocaust in our nation. Remind your children that when they stand for the protection of the pre-born, they are heroes just like the abolitionists or civil rights activists. Help inspire them to make a difference and embolden them to be heroic in their daily defense of life.

With these tools, you can inspire your child to transform his or her campus and be a courageous witness for LIFE!