

# 10 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR KIDS



# PRO-LIFE

## Over the years,

I have spoken with countless parents about the struggles they have faced in keeping their children pro-life. Some have children in college, who returned home for their first Thanksgiving break with a vendetta against Christians, men, conservatives, and life. Some are the parents of high schoolers, who are being taught that *Plan B* and other abortifacient-contraceptives are natural, safe, and good products. Some are the parents of middle schoolers, who are shocked by the Culture of Death that is fed to their kids through classmates and social media.

One of the questions I most often receive from parents is, ***how can I keep my kids pro-life when everything in society is stacked against me?*** Despite our best efforts as parents, we cannot guarantee our children will listen and obey 100% of the time. Even as the CEO of the *Pro-Life Generation*, I know my limits, and one day my kids will be adults on their own, living in this beautiful, but broken, world.

Let's face it: the mainstream media, social media, most colleges, much of the public school system, and frankly "powers and principalities" in this world are all working **against** your efforts to raise pro-life kids who will stay pro-life for their whole lives. ***They want you to lose.*** They want your child to be confused about his or her identity, to be convinced that truth is relative, and to be dependent on the government for information and needs.

## So, does this mean we give up? Absolutely not.

As parents, we cannot coast through raising our kids and hope for the best. We, as parents, must be proactive in taking steps to keep our kids pro-life. Why? Because it is the correct, true, and moral position. More importantly, though, because ***the pro-life worldview leads to human flourishing – for our children, for those who they interact with, and for the rest of the world.***

This Culture of Death is not the legacy that I want to leave my kids, and I'm sure it is not what you want to leave them, either. ***It is a culture that has led to heartache, pain, suffering, and, well, death – most of all through the tens of millions of children who have been aborted over the last half-century in America.***

Can I guarantee that your children will remain pro-life forever? No, of course I can't. Just like I can't guarantee that my son will clean his room within 3 business days of telling him to do so.

But what I can **promise** you is that the only way you can give your kids even a fighting chance at staying pro-life is to remain vigilant and work against the culture trying to destroy your kids' lives. Our work at *Students for Life of America* (SFLA) is focused on forming young people on campuses across the

country and to raise up an army of confident and well-formed pro-life leaders who will go and change the culture. I'm honored to say 18 years after launching our grassroots organization, we now serve more than 1,500 active student groups who are in all 50 states and have trained more than 200,000 young people. Each day, we are changing the minds of 15% pro-choice students we reach on campuses. **Our mission, however, cannot be accomplished without the diligence of dedicated parents, like you, who want to raise strong pro-life leaders as well.**

Together, we will raise up a strong generation of leaders, who will not stay silent in the face of the Culture of Death and will abolish abortion so that future generations are saved from this evil. At SFLA, we equip our leaders with the training, resources, and mentorship they need to change this culture. I also want to provide you with the tools you need to keep your kids pro-life, **because we are the Pro-Life Generation, and darn it, we will abolish abortion!**

**What follows are 10 of the most important things that you can do to keep your children pro-life.**

**Kristan Hawkins**  
CEO of the *Pro-Life Generation*

*Students for Life of America • Students for Life Action  
• Campaign for Abortion Free Cities • Standing with You  
• Demetree Institute for Pro-Life Advancement*

These tips are based on our experience of over 15 years of running SFLA and the success we have accomplished in converting and raising strong pro-life leaders. It is important to note that following these tips can be challenging, and it requires work on your end to ensure that you are the primary educator of your children and, as such, you are well-educated in pro-life issues yourself (see Tip 5).

Don't worry we at *Students for Life of America* are here to help, and if you have any questions at all, my email is **Kristan@StudentsforLife.org**.



# 01

## Model Moral Absolutes:

Teach your children that truth is objective.

**One of the most important lessons children need to learn is that truth is objective.**

**Abortion is either right, or it is wrong. It is either the killing of a human life, or it is not.**

For this reason, we must insist on modeling absolutes. We need to get rid of the gray areas.

In a time where social media and celebrities are shaping every scope of reality, one of the biggest challenges young people are facing today is the philosophy of moral relativism. This idea plants the lie in the minds of our youth that actions that should be considered harmful, are actually okay under the right set of circumstances. Moral relativism says that truth is in the eye of the beholder – what is right for one person, may be wrong for another, but both are equally valid and justifiable. This is especially evident within the abortion debate. The use of relativism gravely diminishes the value of human life.

It suggests that some persons may be valued and granted rights, while others may not fit

into the standards of our time. This has created a scale to determine the value of human life based on individual circumstances, better yet – preferences, rather than a universal respect for all life.

Imagine how unsettling it must be for a child to be told that truth is “whatever they want it to be” and that it can change from person to person. **That sounds like a really good way to set a child on a path of confusion and unhappiness to me.**

Your children need you to model moral absolutes. They are already up against a culture that will tell them that they can rationalize any behavior.

Your example at home will allow them to practice how to think critically for themselves and think through behaviors. This will prepare them to stand for the preborn when they no longer have your direct guidance.

Our trained staff can train your church so you and other parents in your community can learn how to talk with your kids about the absolute morals of pro-life values.

Request a training session at  
**[StudentsforLifeHQ.com/FreeTraining](https://StudentsforLifeHQ.com/FreeTraining).**



# 02

## Get Involved:

Promoting moral absolutes is only the beginning of shaping your children's pro-life beliefs. **Morals need to be followed by action.** Getting involved within your pro-life community is a way to model by doing.

Surround yourself and your children with like-minded people who can help form pro-life arguments and stand with you. The support of a group assures that you are not alone in your position. Encourage your students to get involved with a *Students for Life* group in their school or church. If there isn't a group on their campus, be the encouragement they need to get a group started. For help starting a group, go to **[StudentsforLife.org/Start](https://StudentsforLife.org/Start)**.



**Participating in local pro-life events will shape their pro-life stance.** It is important for your children to see your dedication to supporting life, and for them to have your support as they get involved.

### EVENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN:

Go to **[StudentsforLifeHQ.com/Plan](https://StudentsforLifeHQ.com/Plan)** to learn of top pro-life opportunities available every month.

**JANUARY** • National Pro-Life March

**JANUARY** • National Pro-Life Summit, **[ProLifeSummit.com](https://ProLifeSummit.com)**

**JUNE** • National Celebrate Life Weekend **[ProLifeSummit.com](https://ProLifeSummit.com)**

**FALL & SPRING** • *40 Days for Life* Campaign, **[40DaysforLife.com](https://40DaysforLife.com)**

**AUGUST** • National Pro-Life Generation Sidewalk Day, **[StudentsforLife.org/SidewalkDay](https://StudentsforLife.org/SidewalkDay)**

**OCTOBER & MARCH** • National Pro-Life Chalk Day, **[StudentsforLife.org/Chalk](https://StudentsforLife.org/Chalk)**

**OCTOBER** • National Life Chain, request a *Respect Life Month* Event-in-a-Box at **[StudentsforLifeHQ.com/Event-in-a-Box](https://StudentsforLifeHQ.com/Event-in-a-Box)** for more *Respect Life Month* events and opportunities.

**THROUGHOUT THE YEAR** • Local Walk for Life

# 03 Model Volunteerism:

## Getting involved in pro-life activities doesn't stop with your attendance.

Keep your kids pro-life by modeling what it means to volunteer in the pro-life mission field. Volunteering is vital to any advocacy work. When you volunteer, you are choosing to stand in the gap for the women, men, and families that feel they have no choice but to give in to the lies of the abortion industry.

When you experience standing alongside someone in need, this has lifelong implications. It gives you a perspective into a battle that you may not have known existed until you saw it for yourself. Volunteering in the pro-life movement will give you and your children a firsthand look at the reality of the abortion industry.

Many colleges, and even high schools and middle schools, have made volunteer hours a requirement for class credit or graduation. Imagine the perspective your child can bring to their campus after they volunteer at a local

pregnancy resource center and see firsthand a woman choose life for her child. Find your local pregnancy resource center by going to: **[StandingWithYou.org/Local-Resources](https://StandingWithYou.org/Local-Resources)**.



One of the top ways you can utilize your time and serve your community is through our *Campaign for Abortion Free Cities*. You can start or join a campaign in your city by going to **[AbortionFreeCities.org](https://AbortionFreeCities.org)**.



# 04

## Teach Fetal Development:

Teach your child about fetal development through descriptions and images. Understanding prenatal development will help your child see and identify with the true humanity of the preborn child in the womb. When they understand that the child in the womb is a distinct, living, human being, the act of abortion can be clearly defined as a moral wrong.

Moreover, your child can use this knowledge to explain and defend their beliefs to their

peers and abortion-minded individuals. Encourage your child to study the growth and development of preborn children so that they can speak of the biological changes throughout each day, week, and month of pregnancy. This knowledge will reaffirm their beliefs, and it will be an effective tool as they work to defend life.

Learn more about fetal development at [StudentsforLife.org/FetalDevelopment](https://StudentsforLife.org/FetalDevelopment).

## Fetal Development Timeline:

### WEEKS 1-4

Conception occurs when the sperm fertilizes the egg. Gender is determined by the sperm, which carries either an X or a Y chromosome. An X chromosome indicates a female baby, and Y denotes a male. The embryo implants itself on the wall of the uterus. The baby's neural tube forms; it will ultimately become the brain and spinal cord. The circulatory system rapidly forms (including the umbilical cord), and his or her heart begins to beat toward the beginning of week three.



### WEEKS 5-8

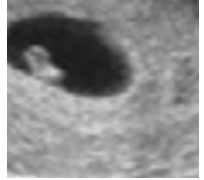
His or her hands and wrist joints are forming, and brainwave activity has begun. At week seven, he or she can hiccup. The heart, which began beating weeks ago, is nearly complete and is beating very quickly now (peaking between 165 and 170 beats per minute). Right- and left-handedness begins to emerge by week eight.



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## WEEKS 9-12

The baby can suck his or her thumb and move the tongue. Fingernails and toenails start to grow, and unique fingerprints are present by week 10. By week 11, his or her nose and lips are completely formed, and complex facial expressions begin. Reproductive organs are well-formed, and gender can now be seen on ultrasound. By week 12, pain capability begins, and the hands touch the mouth up to 50 times an hour.



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## WEEKS 13-16

His or her teeth, as well as other tissues, are growing at week 13. The cerebellum resembles that of an adult, and the cerebral cortex develops four lobes by week 14. By week 15, stem cells arrive in the bone marrow, and if he or she has fetal surgery, pain medication and sedation would be administered from this point onward. The baby has a hormonal stress response to invasive procedures by week 16.



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## WEEKS 17-20

His or her cerebral cortex is now active. In female babies, the number of oogonia, which will become eggs, reaches its height; oogonia production ceases permanently by week 19. In male babies, the prostate gland begins to develop. Daily cycles in biological rhythms, such as sleep, begin. By week 20, the cochlea in the inner ear reaches adult size and the baby can now respond to sounds. The eyelids separate and the eyes now open and close.



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## WEEKS 21-24

His or her brain is growing very quickly by week 21; nerves begin making complex connections and will continue to do so until about 5 years after birth. Hair growth begins. At week 22, white blood cells are developing to allow him or her to fight off infection. The brain weighs about 100 grams at week 23 and is about to start a major growth spurt, during which its size will increase 400-500%! He or she can hear things outside the womb by week 24 and will have a blink-startle response to a loud, sudden noise. These loud noises cause an increase in heart rate and movement.



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## WEEKS 25-28

He or she now can taste, which affects the rate at which he or she swallows amniotic fluid. If the mother eats sweet food, he will swallow faster, while bitter food leads to slower swallowing. Light detection of the eyes is now possible. By week 26, the sense of smell is present and tear production now begins. Pupils react to light by week 27. By week 28, the baby can do somersaults by a series of movements similar to walking and can sense sound frequency variations.



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## WEEKS 29-32

At week 29, his or her eyes can now move around in their sockets, and all the rest of the senses are functioning too. During the next week, breathing motions continue to be common, even though there isn't any air in the womb. He or she can most likely dream by week 31. The baby's memory begins working by week 32, as he or she will typically prefer songs heard in the later part of pregnancy to ones heard only after birth.





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## WEEKS 33-36

His or her skull bones have not fused and are very pliable at week 33. Amniotic fluid is at its highest level at this week and will stay at this level until birth. Rapid weight gain during week 34 includes an increase in brain weight as the myelin sheath around nerves thickens during the last weeks of pregnancy. By week 35, he or she has developed a firm grip, and lung development is almost complete. The immune system continues to develop at week 36 as the baby receives antibodies from his or her mother.



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## WEEKS 37-40

By week 37, the baby is becoming more coordinated and can now grasp things. He or she is considered full-term by week 38. Vernix, the waxy substance on his or her skin, is mostly gone now; only a small amount remains to help the baby go through the birth canal smoothly. The baby is gaining a half ounce to an ounce each day. At week 39, he or she now has over 300 bones as the skeleton continues to develop; all organs are ready for birth. He or she is born at week 40!



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# 05 Train Them in Apologetics:

You help direct your child's actions by helping to develop their moral compass. By teaching your child to defend their pro-life beliefs through apologetics, you will improve their ability to present smart, compassionate, and reasonable arguments when responding to their peers' opposing views.

Preparing your children to reasonably and effectively answer questions about abortion will be especially important to help them answer the "hard case" situations like rape, health of the mother, incest, and fetal abnormalities. Becoming comfortable in defending life with science and philosophy will help your young person convert others to truth and stand strong in the face of opposing viewpoints.

### BOOKS TO READ:

*Persuasive Pro-Life* by **Trent Horn**

*The Case for Life* by **Scott Klusendorf**

*Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Questions* by **Randy Alcorn**

### WHAT TO WATCH ONLINE:

Apologetics training videos at:  
**StudentsforLifeHQ.org**

Mind-changing videos on campuses at: **YouTube.com/StudentsforLife**

# 06

## Teach Pro-Life Activism:

Teach your child to defend their pro-life beliefs (apologetics), you will improve their ability to present smart, compassionate, and reasonable arguments when responding to their peers' opposing views.

Since SFLA's inception, we have seen the extraordinary impact *Students for Life* groups across the nation have had in our pro-life movement. The most successful of these groups are those who find balance in seeking out opportunities to converse, convert,

confront, advocate, and support. They engage in our 5 Pillars of Pro-Life Activism.

Instead of being focused on only the area of pro-life activism that your child is most comfortable with, challenge them to be involved in other areas of the pro-life movement. Not only will you foster a more dynamic impact on their beliefs, but you will witness an increase in participation within the pro-life movement.

### **The first pillar is Effective Education.**

Within this pillar, we want to make students aware of the abortion crisis and recruit them to join our mission in confronting the crisis. Your child can participate in this pillar by attending a pro-life apologetics talk or SFLA's National Pro-Life Summit every January in Washington, D.C. Find out more at **[www.ProLifeSummit.org](http://www.ProLifeSummit.org)**.

### **The second pillar is Industry Impact.**

Within this pillar, we want to systematically expose the abortion industry and reduce the supply of abortion. Sidewalk counseling or participating in *National Pro-Life Chalk Day* is a perfect activity to participate in for Industry Impact. For more Industry Impact activity ideas, visit **[StudentsforLife.org/Industry-Impact](http://StudentsforLife.org/Industry-Impact)**.

### **The third pillar is Public Policy.**

Within this pillar, we want to secure and enforce pro-life legislation and eliminate pro-abortion legislation.

We also want to ensure staunchly pro-life people are in office passing good laws. Making sure your child understands the importance of pro-life legislation is vital to their success within the pro-life movement.

This is what will shape our culture for generations to come, and it will begin with your guidance. To get involved in pro-life politics, go to **[StudentsforLifeAction.org/Action-Center](http://StudentsforLifeAction.org/Action-Center)**.

### **The fourth pillar is Rapid Response.**

Within this pillar, we want to effectively identify, expose, and counter the abortion agenda to the community and news media. This means responding to events in your community as they happen. A local pro-abortion group is hosting a birthday party for the local Planned Parenthood? Encourage your child and some friends to stand outside with “I am the *Pro-Life Generation*” signs. More information on Rapid Response can be found at **[StudentsforLife.org/Rapid-Response](https://StudentsforLife.org/Rapid-Response)**.

### **Lastly, Supportive Services.**

Within this pillar, we aim to provide resources directly to those targeted and affected by abortion, so that women can choose life for their children and pursue a hopeful future for their families. Visit **[StandingWithYou.org](https://StandingWithYou.org)** for more information on how your child can assist pregnant and parenting students in their school and within the community.

# 07 Show the Reality of Abortion:

Show your child the physical and emotional after-effects of abortion. This information, along with testimonials of women and men with abortion experiences, can help your young person understand the devastation that abortion can bring. Pro-life websites like **[AfterAbortion.org](https://AfterAbortion.org)** are great resources.

This will further equip them to talk to a peer that may be considering an abortion and may ultimately give your child an opportunity to guide a friend to choose life.

Another way to show your child the reality of abortion is to share information about the number of deaths that have occurred through abortion, and lawsuits brought against abortionists and their hazardous facilities. **Refer your child to [AbortionDocs.org](https://AbortionDocs.org) or [CheckMyClinic.org](https://CheckMyClinic.org)** to teach them about the conditions of abortion facilities and the perpetrators who threaten the lives of children and mothers. One of the most effective tools to show the reality of abortion is to show what happens during an abortion.

**VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED:** We recommend using the videos done by *Live Action* at **[AbortionProcedures.com](https://AbortionProcedures.com)** and/or *Students for Life* videos on **[StudentsforLife.org/SeeMeNow](https://StudentsforLife.org/SeeMeNow)**.

# 08

## Demonstrate What it Means to be Pro-Life:

Imagine a mom choosing life for her baby after speaking with you while sidewalk counseling outside of an abortion facility. In this scenario, you played a vital role in growing the next generation and this is what being pro-life looks like. This is what your children want to see, and why it is so important to teach and show them what it means to be pro-life. You must demonstrate that being pro-life means we will stand up against the greatest social injustice our generation has ever seen, and that we will

speak out against this modern Holocaust and abolish it.

When your child knows and understands the reasons why they are pro-life, they will be able to stand firm against a culture and their peers that tell them that being pro-life isn't popular, or even that it's wrong. Praise your child for standing up for their beliefs, for engaging in the tough conversations, and for being a bold witness for preborn children and their mothers.



# 09

## Get Active in Your Church:

Being an inspiration to your community can inspire your children and cement their pro-life beliefs. Women facing a crisis pregnancy should feel comfortable running to the Church amidst the chaos they are feeling. In fact, the Church should be the first place that a woman goes when she finds out she is in crisis. Unfortunately, it has become the last place most want to turn. A recent study, sponsored by CareNet found that

**40% of women were actively attending church at the time of their abortions.**

There has been an unfortunate stigma surrounding how the Church views unplanned pregnancies, making it difficult for women to reach out when they are in need.

At *Students for Life*, we know it's not an easy task to engage church members and grow a culture of life within your church. Because of this, our team has designed resources that can help you (free of charge). Become a *Standing With You* Community Advocate at

**[StandingWithYou.org/CommunityAdvocate](https://StandingWithYou.org/CommunityAdvocate).**

Another way to inspire your fellow church members is to start your own *40 Days for Life* (**[40DaysforLife.com](https://40DaysforLife.com)**) campaign in your community.

Leading a *40 Days for Life* campaign in your community is a great community outreach tool that gives you an opportunity to share the truth about abortion. Having your children participate in a local *40 Days for Life* campaign will enable them to see your commitment to the pro-life mission and give them more momentum to fight for the preborn.





# 10 Show Heroism:

Facing the challenges of our culture and the questions of their peers, can make it hard for a pro-life young person to remain enthusiastic and confident in their battle for life. As a parent, you must encourage your child to look up to heroes in your community who have sacrificed for the preborn and their mothers and to embrace the tough battles that lie ahead. Remind them that they were created for this mission.

**“PERHAPS YOU  
WERE CREATED  
FOR A TIME  
SUCH AS THIS”**  
Esther 4:14

Remind them that the pro-life movement is an opportunity for them to be involved in something so much greater than themselves.

When you talk about historical heroes or watch movies like *Amazing Grace*, you can easily show the comparison of the human rights struggles of the past to those of the present. Remind your child that they stand for the protection of the preborn and that they are heroes just like slavery abolitionists or civil rights activists. Help inspire them to make a difference and embolden them to be heroic in their daily defense of life.

Contact us at **[Info@StudentsforLife.org](mailto:Info@StudentsforLife.org)** to bring a *Students for Life* team member to your church, pro-life ministry, or community to dialogue with others about abortion, how to engage the youth, and to inspire you into action!

Trainings available for request at  
**[StudentsforLifeHQ.com/FreeTraining](http://StudentsforLifeHQ.com/FreeTraining)**.

## Our Top Trainings Include:

*Apologetics 101 & 201 - middle school, high school, college/adults*

*Assisted Suicide*

*Youth Ministry Training*

*Standing With You*


*Fetal Development*


*What is a Person?*

*Planned Parenthood's Abortion Business*

*Chastity: Creating Healthy & Loving Relationships*

*Embracing the Controversy of Abortion*

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large group of young people, likely students, at a pro-life rally. They are wearing red beanies and holding a large white banner. In the background, there are red flags, one of which features a lion and the words "Tradition Family Property".

**TOGETHER,  
LET'S**  **STUDENTS  
FOR LIFE®  
OF AMERICA**  
**RAISE UP A  
STRONG  
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LEADERS.**





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