



The Cycle of LIFE

Session Length	30 minutes
Introduction	<p>This session can be split into two if preferred. It starts by referring back to the account of Jesus welcoming the little children used in Unit 1 of this Module, to show that God created us to follow the cycle of life and He loves us at every stage. We are created to grow, change and learn, not least about the love of God and how we can share it with others. There can be joy in every stage of life!</p> <p>The session then moves to looking at the specifics of the human life cycle, and children will be encouraged to celebrate how they have already changed and grown.</p>
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will know and appreciate that there are natural life stages from birth to death, and what these are
Success Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will engage with discussion questions about the story• Children will be able to describe the stages of the human life cycle• Children will take part in activities about their own development
Virtues to be developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wisdom• Respect• Personhood• Curious
Resource Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher Notes (this document)• Online Presentation• Appendix 1 – Sort it Out!
Preparation Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask children/carers to bring in a baby photo of themselves.

Class Discussion: We are special because we are created and loved by God

<p>Slide 1</p>	<p>Ask pupils what they remember about the Gospel account of Jesus welcoming the little children. You could use these questions to prompt answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think the children felt when they were kept away from Jesus? • How do you think the children felt when they were with Jesus? • What can we learn from this Gospel story?
<p>Slide 2</p>	<p>Read aloud Jesus' words on the slide:</p> <p>“Every person God makes is different. Different colours, different talents, different favourite things. But you are God’s child. My Father, God, made YOU. And He only made one of you! And that is what makes you special.”</p>

Film: Jesus teaching about Life Stages

<p>Slide 3</p>	<p>Click to play the film.</p>
<p>Slide 4</p>	<p>Ask the children to demonstrate their understanding. Suggestions are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of people did Jesus welcome? <i>Babies, little children, teenagers, adults, old people, people who wanted to be healed, people who just wanted to hear Him teach – EVERYONE.</i> • Why did people crowd around Jesus? <i>They loved spending time with Him and being reminded of how much God loved them.</i> • When did Jesus say God started loving His children? <i>Before they were born when God shaped them in their Mummy’s tummies right through until they are old and go to be with Him forever.</i> • * What do you think it means for people ‘to live with God in Heaven and be reminded of His love for them every moment of every day.’ <i>It means people will die and go to heaven. Death is a natural end to life, but if people like spending time with God, then they can be with Him forever after they die.</i> • Jesus grew up like us – from baby to child to teenager to adult – and He said that God never stops loving us as we grow older. What can we learn from this?

That growing older and changing is part of God's plan for us! God made us to grow and learn and every day we can learn a bit more how much God loves us and how we can share that love with others.

* Extension Year 2

Small Group Quiz: Spot the baby!

Slide 5

Display the baby photos that children brought in, labelling them A, B, C etc. Children to match the photos to the child, perhaps the group that guesses the most correctly could win a prize/points.

Ask children what has changed for them since those photos were taken, e.g. *walking, talking, thinking, remembering, growing, ability to do some things for themselves etc.*)

Group Activity: The Cycle of Life

Slide 6

Children should sort the pictures of the life stage into the correct place on the slide. At each stage, ask the children what is similar and different from the previous life stage, and if there is anything that people can do that they couldn't do before e.g. walk/talk/think. The correct order is as follows:

Baby - Child - Teenager - Adult - Elderly person

Small Group activity: Sort it out!

Slide 7

Cut up the photos of people at different life stages (**Appendix 1 – Sort it Out!**) and place around the room.

Each of 5 small groups is allocated a life stage, and children must work together to collect the photos that match their group's life stage. They should stick them together to make a collage.

There should also be 5 descriptions of the 5 stages, groups should find the correct description for their life stage and include it in the collage.

The class should then agree on the correct order to display these collages in, under a banner saying 'God loves us all'.

Extension. The collage could be stuck within the silhouette of the life stage (use a search engine for inspiration to draw these out on large paper in advance!)

Extension. Groups could write their own descriptions of their life stage.

Group Final Prayer

Slide 8

Say the final prayer together:

**Dear God,
Thank you for making me as a baby in my Mum's tummy.
Thank you for helping my grow to the child I am today.
As I grow up, help me to remember how much you love me.
Amen**