

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Illustrators / Computer Graphic Artists: Bethany and Olivia Moy Proofreaders: Janet Battaglia, Audrey Brubaker, Barry and Jean Keiser PowerPoint Presentation, Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope

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Show Illustration #1

Debbie, a volunteer at a local pregnancy center, sat down at her desk and checked her afternoon schedule. "Ah, a full day!" she thought.

Debbie had an important and

sometimes difficult job at the pregnancy center. She met with women to determine if they were pregnant and to guide them through their pregnancies. However, sometimes these women did not want to be pregnant. They were worried about having a baby. Sometimes they didn't have a lot of money, or the fathers of the babies did not want to stay to help raise the child. Others had busy lives and were worried about the timing of their pregnancies. Some would decide to parent their babies. Others would allow another family to raise them through adoption. But some would decide to end the lives of their babies through abortion. Debbie would talk with these women many times, hoping to help them see what a gift from God each baby is and to help the women decide how to move forward. The pregnancy center also had a shop for the women full of baby items - clothes, diapers, cribs, even car seats and strollers! As the women came for counseling and doctors' appointments, they earned points from the pregnancy center. Then, right before the baby arrived, they could use their points to shop for items for their babies.



Show Illustration #2

On this particular afternoon, Debbie prayed before her clients arrived. "Lord, every child is a gift from You. Please help me to know what words to say, and please help these dear women to see what a

beautiful gift You have given them. Help them to know that You love them, even if they are scared to be mothers." Debbie knew what the Bible taught concerning pregnancy and human life – babies are made in God's image and have worth and dignity even before they are born!

As she waited, she thought of God's words through King David in Psalm 139. (*Teacher:* Read Psalm 139:13-14.) All babies are planned and created by God. He knows them and loves them. Debbie prayed that God would change her clients' hearts to see their babies as God sees them.



Show Illustration #3

Debbie walked down the hall to a meeting room and waited. Soon a young man and woman entered the room. They greeted her nervously as they sat down. "I am here to see if I am pregnant,"

Hope, the young woman, murmured. "We already have a son, and we are not sure that we want more children," the young man, David, added. Debbie nodded "I'm so glad you're here. Thank you for coming."

A little while later, Debbie placed the pregnancy test into Hope's hands. It was clearly positive. There was a baby on the way. As Hope studied the results her shoulder's drooped and she slumped back in the couch. Debbie knew the couple didn't want another child. Would they decide to parent their baby, allow another to adopt the child, or decide to end this new life?

"Lord, give me wisdom to encourage them, and help them to see the blessing of this gift!" Debbie prayed in her heart. Then she turned to the couple. "Congratulations, on your pregnancy. I know this is a difficult time for you. May I ask if God has a part in helping you make the decision of what to do with your baby?"



Show Illustration #4

David shifted uncomfortably in his chair and glanced at Hope who suddenly sat upright. Anger flashed in her eyes as she exclaimed, "Do NOT talk to me about God."

Debbie, somewhat taken aback, nodded, then continued on with other questions. She respected Hope's request not to talk about God, praying silently that God's love would be shown to them through her, even without words. She scheduled another meeting with the couple for one week later and walked with them to the door. As she watched them walk to the car, she knew God would need to be the one to change their hearts and give them joy in His gift to them.

Over the next weeks, Debbie continued to meet with Hope and David. They decided to keep their child, but Hope was not happy. One day Hope felt particularly sick and wanted to stay home, so David came to the pregnancy center alone.