



**elev8**

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 2**

**Seasons and  
Celebrations**

**Birth**

**Bible Readings**

**Ecclesiastes 3**

**Genesis 17**

**1 Samuel 1**

**Psalm 139**



### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of celebrating births in the Bible
- Express the theme or story in your own way
- Apply your learning from this issue to your own life and community

### Notes from Bible Reading

**Scripture** A word or phrase that stood out to me:

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**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

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**Application** Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

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**Prayer** What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

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**Key Question** What does the Bible have to say about celebrating births?

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### Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Share with the group a birthday that you particularly remember and why it was so memorable.

### Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

**Read together:** Psalm 139

How does a God who created the whole universe view the life of a single human being? It would be easy to assume that God would think as much about us, as we do about ants or plankton.

How do we measure a life? Or the worth of someone's life? What are the valuable or important markers in a person's life? Ecclesiastes records the thoughts of 'the wise teacher' (some people think the author of this book is King Solomon, a man who is credited to be the wisest man in all of human history) trying to make sense of human life.

When does a human life begin? - after he or she emerges from the mother's womb for the first time; at some point in the womb when the foetus is able to react to pain, when the sperm and egg meets; or is it already an individual with a destiny in God's grand plan even before creation began?

The Bible doesn't always give us clear-cut answers, but definitely seems to value the life and birth of all people (even if the individuals themselves question the value of their own birth and life).

### Things to keep in mind:

1. In Genesis 17 (and 1 Samuel 1), God reminds that even though we have scientific knowledge of how life begins and babies are born, that God is still involved in it all.  
Getting pregnant is still not as straight-forward and easy for many hopeful parents.  
And any expectant parent will tell you how many unknowns and difficulties that can be involved with leading up to and the birth process itself.
2. The idea behind circumcision was a way of not only celebrating the new life of an individual, but to remind them that God promised he would be involved with their whole life (they were his chosen people).  
Samuel's mum prays a similar promise, of dedicating her son to be involved in God's work.
3. Think of what Psalm 139 might mean in regards to when life begins.
4. Think of what Psalm 139 might mean in regards to how God views your birth and life.
5. Pregnancy and birth reminds us that there are some aspects of life that has waiting, uncertainty, discomfort, and pain as part of the necessary process for something else better to occur.  
Not everything can be rushed or even predicted to occur for our own convenience.

### Explore – Express

#### Role play:

Come up with your own scenario of how pregnancy, birth and a new baby impacts the life of the parents involved. You're welcome to just imagine what you like in regards to the circumstances surrounding this new arrival. Remember to portray how it affects both parents.

Have a snapshot of 9 months prior (when they discover they are pregnant), 6 months prior, 3 months prior, the birth itself, 3 months after, and 1 year after.

#### Discuss:

- When do you personally think life begins? (after he or she emerges from the mother's womb for the first time; at some point in the womb when the foetus is able to react to pain, when the sperm and egg meets; or is it already an individual with a destiny in God's grand plan even before creation began?)
- When do you think God takes an interest in the life of someone like you?
- Why do parents often like to get the newborn 'christened' or 'dedicated' in church?  
What does it mean to the parents?  
What value is it for the child?

### Explore – Integrate

- Think about how much pain, suffering and stress are involved for parents in the lead up to and after the birth.  
Think about how you can show your appreciation to your parents for this.
- What are other areas of life should we think of in similar ways to being pregnant, in that the waiting, uncertainty and suffering will give birth to something so much more greater? So that we have greater patience and excitement on what is to come rather than focus on what we have to currently endure?
- What would it mean to have a second birth; that is to be born-again? Is it going to be a nice comfortable convenient process for us, or will there be aspects all out of our control, but the need to surrender to something else and just ride it out to something far better?

### Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

#### Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

### Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for people who are pregnant (even if you don't currently know anyone who is) that they may feel the presence of God in their lives as they sense another life within them.

Give thanks for your own life and the miracle of your own birth.

Pray that I see with God's eyes who God created me to be, and to live and act more in ways that honour the miracle of my birth.