SIXTH GRADE
LESSON VIII
RISKS OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Objectives
• Discuss the risks and responsibilities of teen pregnancies
• Understand how Sexually Transmitted Infections are contracted, treated and prevented

Concepts
1. Sexually Transmitted Infections are also called communicable diseases that are passed on from one person to another by sexual contact with an infected person.
2. There are about 20 identified STIs. They are a serious and sometimes deadly group of infectious diseases. Many of these diseases can be cured by a medical doctor.
3. An individual can get an STI any number of times even though they have been treated and cured. There is no immunity.
4. The most certain way to avoid STIs is to avoid sexual intercourse-abstinence

Materials
• Question box
• Video Update: Sexually Transmitted Infections (28 minutes)

Activities
1. Show the video Update: Sexually Transmitted Infections
2. Discuss the risks of teen pregnancy
   A. If a boy and girl do have sexual intercourse before marriage and the girl becomes pregnant, they will create many problems not only for themselves but for the baby and for both sets of parents. Name some of the problems.
   B. A young woman’s body is still growing; 25% of the babies born to teens are born prematurely. Most babies born to teenagers have a low birth weight. Both occurrences can have serious consequences.
   C. A teenager may not be emotionally prepared to be a mother. Give some examples.
   D. Having a child involves financial and legal obligations. Try to figure the cost of being a parent of a newborn.
   E. The only way to be 100% sure of preventing pregnancy is abstinence.

   Teen pregnancy issues
   1. I’m grown up enough to have a baby
   2. A baby will make my boyfriend love me (or marry me)
   3. A baby will give life meaning
   4. A baby takes 24 hour care
   5. Teens have little money
   6. Teen fathers can not provide much financial support
   7. It is difficult for young parents to pursue their life goals
   8. Teen parents feel trapped
9. Teen parents who marry experience a high rate of divorce
1. Discuss the following Sexually Transmitted Infections-contracted through sexual contact with an infected person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STI</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>Yellowish discharge, burning during urination, sterility, blindness</td>
<td>Antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>Open sore, body rash, attacks vital organs, brain damage, blindness, crippling, death</td>
<td>Antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes Type II</td>
<td>Virus</td>
<td>Painful blisters on genital area-extremely dangerous to newborn.</td>
<td>No cure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS-additional</td>
<td>HIV virus</td>
<td>Weakens immune system, flu-like symptoms, night sweats, death</td>
<td>No cure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Discuss decisions regarding sex
A. Identify abstinence as the only 100% effective method of preventing pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections
B. Consider the values of parents
C. Consider religious training, if any
D. Recognize messages and pressures from the media
E. Recognize pressures from peers
F. Remember, it can happen to you- pregnancy and STIs
G. Think about the difference between infatuation and love. List them
H. Set long term goals and decide how best to attain them
I. Consider personal beliefs and values
J. Consider personal beliefs and values of boy/girlfriend