Human Prenatal Development – Investigation 1: Theological Reflection Worksheet – Answer Key

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1. *What does it mean to be created in the image of God—even at the level of a single cell?*
Even in the earliest stage of life, a human cell holds the full potential of a unique person. Being made in God's image means we have a spiritual soul and are created for love, relationship, and purpose—even before our body fully develops.

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2. *How does Psalm 139:13 ("you knit me together in my mother's womb") connect to what you've learned about chromosomes and development in this investigation?*
The verse highlights the intricate and intentional process of development. Chromosomes guide every detail of our growth from the moment of conception, reflecting how God designed and knows us deeply.

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3. *According to Jeremiah 1:5, how does God's knowledge of us before birth shape how we view the sacredness of life?*
It shows that each life has purpose and value from the very beginning. God's awareness and plan for each person before they are born means that life is sacred at every stage.

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4. *St. John Paul II said the body reveals what is invisible—like the soul. How can something as small as a single cell or embryo reflect spiritual truth?*
Even an embryo shows that human life is more than biology—it's the beginning of a person with a soul, destined to love and be loved. The visible cell points to the invisible dignity of the person.

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5. *Choose two virtues and explain how understanding how human life begins can help you grow in that virtue.*

Examples:

- **Respect**: Learning about the complexity of human development helps me respect all life, no matter how small or early in development.
- **Gratitude**: Knowing how much happens just to form a single cell that becomes a person makes me thankful for my own life and body.
- **Compassion**: Understanding that every life starts the same way helps me care more about those who are vulnerable or not yet born.