

## **Lyrics for Life: *Can I Live?*** **(7<sup>th</sup> Grade-Adult)**

**Objective:** To use music lyrics to open up a discussion on abortion and the lives it affects.

**Audience:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade through adults

**Time Needed:** Approximately 30-40 minutes

**Materials:** Copies of the lyrics, pen/pencil, copy of the music video “Can I Live?” (YouTube.com has the video on the internet).

**Teaching Instructions:** Give each student a copy of the song lyrics “Can I Live?” by Nick Cannon. Do not include Nick Cannon’s name on the handout. Have them read the song as if it is poetry. When they finish reading the lyrics to themselves ask them if there were any phrases or words that stuck out to them. Then tell them that this is a song written by a modern day rapper and ask them what they think the song is about. Using the short bio included in this lesson, inform the students about Nick Cannon and explain that he wrote this song because this is his story. His mother was going to abort him, but she changed her mind. Watch the music video for the song. After the students watch it, ask them if they have any thoughts or comments about the content of the video and song.

**Optional Activity:** Have students write thank you notes to their moms and dads for choosing to give them life.

**Handout:**

### **Find the Meaning**

**Directions:** Read the poem/song below and circle and words or phrases that stick out to you.

Talking Ma  
I know the Situation is Personal  
But it something that has to be told  
As i was making this beat  
You was all i could think about you heard my voice

[Verse 1]  
Yeah Just think (Just Think)  
What if you could Just  
Just blink your self away..  
Just (Just wait) just pause for a second  
Let me plead my case

Its the late 70's Huh  
You Seventeen huh  
And having me that will ruin everything huh  
Its a lot of angel waiting for there wings  
You see me in your sleep so you can't kill your dreams  
300 Dollars that's the price of living what?  
Mommy i don't like this clinic  
Hopefully you'll make the right decision  
And don't go though with the Knife incision  
But it hard to make the right move  
When you in high school  
How you have to work all day and take night school  
Hopping off da bus when the rain is pouring  
What you want morning sickness or the Sickness of mourning?

[Chorus]

I'll Always Be a part of you  
Trust Your Soul Know It's always True  
If I Could Talk I Would Say To You  
CAN I LIVE?  
CAN I LIVE?  
I'll Always Be a part of you  
Trust Your Soul Know It's always True  
If I Could Talk I Would Say To You  
CAN I LIVE?  
CAN I LIVE?

[Verse 2]

I' am a child of the king  
Ain't no need to go fear me  
And I see the flowing tears so know that you hear me  
When I move in your womb that's me being scaring  
Cause who knows where my future holds  
Yo the truth be told you aint told a soul  
Yo you aint even showing i just 2 moths old  
Thorough your clothes try to hide me deny  
Me went up 3 sizes  
Your pride got you lying saying aint nothing but a migraine  
It aint surprising you not trying to be in wick food lines  
Your friends look at you funny but look at you mommy  
Thatz a life inside take a look at your tummy  
What is becoming ma i am Oprah bound  
You can tell he's a star from the Ultrasound  
Our Sprits Connected Doors Open Now  
Nothing But Love And Respect Thanks For Holding Me Down She Let Me Live...

[Chorus]

Ill Always Be apart of you  
Trust Your Soul know it's always True  
If I Could Talk I Would Say To You

CAN I LIVE?

CAN I LIVE?

Ill Always Be apart of you  
Trust Your Soul Know it's always True  
If I Could Talk I Would Say To You

CAN I LIVE?

CAN I LIVE?

[Repeat 2]

Its uplifting foreal yall  
I aint passing no judgement  
Aint making no decisions  
I am just telling ya'll my story  
I love life  
I love my mother for giving me life  
We all need to appreciate life  
A strong woman that had to make a sacrifice  
Thanks for listening  
Thanks for listening  
Mama thanks for listening

### **Additional Information:**

#### **Nick Cannon's Bio-**

While he enjoyed tremendous success on Nickelodeon, Cannon has been catapulted to the big screen. He landed his first leading role in the classic feature film "Drumline." He also made a cameo appearance as an autopsy agent on "Men in Black II." Nick also recorded a cover of Will Smith's "Parents Just Don't Understand" with Lil Romeo and 3LW for the Paramount Pictures/Nickelodeon feature film "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius Soundtrack". Cannon has appeared on and even guest hosted MT V's Total Request Live. Also to add to the list of accomplishments is Nick's Show "Nick Cannon Presents Wild N Out" on MTV. Other credits include a guest starring role on UPN's "The Parkers," and "Love Don't Cost a Thing."