

Week Six

Pregnancy Week 8

You may be getting frustrated your belly doesn't seem to show any signs of your pregnancy. If this is your first pregnancy you may not begin to show until the 4th or 5th month. Remember, the size of your abdomen is not the size of your uterus. It is growing, and it is displacing your other organs. Right now it is about the size of a grapefruit, still low in the pelvis and putting a lot of pressure on your bladder.

Even though you don't see the growth, your baby is getting bigger every day. By this point she is about ½ inch long (about 14-20 mm) from crown to rump and is big enough that you could see her on an ultrasound. Her arms are growing and have developed elbows and wrists. Her hands and feet look like paddles with little notches which will become fingers and toes. Her trunk is getting longer and straightening out, and she is beginning to develop eyes and ears. Even the tip of her nose is present at this point.



Internally, your baby is continuing to develop organ systems. Her bronchial tubes (main passages of the lungs) are beginning to branch out and her bones may begin to harden (ossification). Her heart rate is about 150 bpm, which is about twice the speed of an adult heart. She is also developing her pituitary gland, and the gonads are developing into ovaries or testes.

You should have scheduled your first pre-natal office visit by now. If you haven't selected a caregiver, get some recommendations from friends and relatives and call to interview the doctors and midwives.

Motivation

Luke 10:25-41

I find it interesting that the story of the Good Samaritan is right before the story of Mary and Martha. The Samaritan showed love for the man by serving him; he was motivated by fulfilling a need. However that same desire to fulfill a need distracted Martha from what she truly needed to be doing.

We can only make guesses as to why Martha's desire to serve her guests distracted her. One possibility is that Martha's motivation for serving her guests was not out of a pure love. Perhaps she prided herself in her ability to host and so it was a selfishness that kept her from sitting with Jesus. It might be she had a grudge against her sister and so was using the preparations as a way to prove she was better, and so bitterness kept her from her guests. She might have been shy, and used the preparations as a way to avoid having to face her fears of being in a group.

As you go about your days preparing for your baby to be born, be sure to look into your own motivation. Does your serving your baby and family display your love, or are you spending so much time preparing that you have been distracted from the things you truly need to be doing?

Prayer Guide: Week 6

PRAYING FOR HEALTH

Mom:

Choosing a care provider
Comfort with symptoms

Baby:

Hands and feet
Testes or ovaries
Lungs
Internal organs

PRAYING THE BIBLE

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you. *1 Peter 1:3-4*

SAMPLE PRAYER

Lord,

This child inside me is your child. I am so blessed to have been chosen to care for your child, to serve him until he is able to fulfill your plans for him. I know you have selected the perfect child to help me become the woman you want me to be and I am the perfect mother to help this child become the person you want him to be.

Even now, before I can see or feel my baby, you are loving him and caring for him. Help me to make good decisions for our health and well being. Keep me focused on my baby's needs. Teach me to love him.

Amen