

Tenth Grade Curriculum

PARENT/YOUTH WORKSHOP: Growing in Faith

Supplies: prayer cards (youth and parents in different colors), mustard seeds taped to cards (on family blessing side), Indiana Jones movie, microphone, tv/dvd, handouts, pencils, folders/books to write on, newsprints with sharing questions to post on wall, masking tape, Bible, prayer space

Goals/Outcomes

- Parents and youth will share their faith together
- Parents/youth will see that their counterparts are “normal”
- Parents/youth will reflect on their faith and relationship with God

Objectives

- Head: explore what faith is
- Heart: seek to understand their parent/youth’s perspective on faith
- Hands: share their faith with parent/youth

Session Outline

- 7:00-7:10** Welcome and Opening Prayer
Indiana Jones: Nazi officer enters, shoots Jones’ dad and says, “What do you believe?”
Introduction of the night: outline and what is faith
Indiana Jones: Penitent Man Will Pass – image of God
- 7:10-7:25** Mixed groups – have teens move around so they are not sitting with their own parent
Images of God time travel
Were all of the images the same/different? Why or why not?
Share your present image of God
- 7:25-7:45** Indiana Jones: Footsteps of the Word – knowing one another
Back to Back Game Show
- 7:45-8:00** Indiana Jones: leap of faith
Parent & Son/Daughter – instruct them to move to separate tables or the families can be at opposite ends of a table. If they are near each other, the adults will talk with each other instead of with their son/daughter and vice versa.
What is Faith Worksheet – select top 2 (may be one of your own)
My Faith Journey – complete sheet (Both from *A Chance to Serve* by Brian Reynolds)
- 8:00-8:15** Share top 2 What is Faith’s and your G, ?, + and P with each other.
- 8:15-8:25** Indiana Jones: Getting the Grail (choose wisely) and saving his dad
Wrap up: Have everyone write on a slip of paper his or her answers to the following questions:
- What did you learn about your family member?
 - Your own definition of faith
- Invite them to leave the sheets for you if they wish. It is not required.
*Remind them to share what they did this evening with the parent who is at home if both parents did not attend.
- 8:25-8:30** Closing Prayer

Images of God Exercise

Notes: You may want to preface this by saying everyone is a teenager for this next activity. That way the “time travel” isn’t as taxing for the adults. Allow time between each of the steps for people to get their image of God at that age. You may also include additional descriptions of each of the time periods. This gives time for them to put themselves into that time period and then get their image of God.

1. Invite them to close their eyes and time travel back to Kindergarten (when they took naps, etc.) When you were in Kindergarten and someone said, “God” to you what did you see? Get that image.
2. Now we’re going to move forward in time to your First Communion. Back when you wore your shirt and tie or a white dress and veil, etc. When you were making your First Communion and someone said, “God” to you what did you see? Get that image.
3. We’re moving forward again to eighth grade when you were the oldest kids in the school. When you were in eighth grade and someone said, “God” to you what did you see? Get that image.
4. Now we’re moving forward to today (insert date.) When someone says, “God” to you what do you see? Get that image.
5. Open your eyes.
6. Give them the sharing questions noted in the outline to share with each other. This sharing is not done as parents with their own children. This is intentional so that parents can see that their own son/daughter is just like other teens and teens can see that their parents aren’t as “weird” as they may think their parents are. Not being with their own family member removes some of the pressure/awkwardness from this first sharing exercise.

Back to Back Game Show

1. Have one parent(s) and one teen sit back to back in chairs

Note: If there is an “extra” parent, he/she can play along by doing their own set of answers and comparing, but only add up the score for one parent and one teen.

2. Give each a sheet of paper and pencil and ask them to number it 1-10.
3. Ask one question (in bold) at a time and give them a few seconds to write down a response. Go through all 10 questions at once without them speaking to one another.
4. When the ten questions are completed, invite them to face one another, but not to share answers yet.
5. Read one question at a time and then invite them to share their responses and score it appropriately. Once done, ask the *italicized question to encourage further sharing on the topic.*
6. Repeat this process for each question. Then determine top 3 scores and declare the winner (and award prize bag of candy if appropriate)

5 Point Questions

1. **What is the teen’s favorite room in the house?** (*What’s most cherished item in that room*)
2. **What is the teen’s favorite meal that he/she cooks her/himself?** (*Who taught you to prepare that?*)
3. **What is the parent’s favorite restaurant?** (*Why is this the favorite and share a favorite memory from eating there*)
4. **Who is the teen’s best friend?** (*What will that person likely be doing after High School and how will it change your relationship?*)

10 Point Questions

5. **Who is the parent’s best friend?** (*How did they meet and an early memory from the relationship?*)
6. **What is the best part (for the teen) about being in high school?** (*What was it for the parent?*)
7. **Where is the parent’s favorite place to pray?** (*What is the teen’s favorite place to pray?*)
8. **Why does the teen want to be Confirmed?** (*How can the parent help the teen to achieve this?*)
9. **Why does the parent want the teen to be Confirmed?** (*What are you doing now (besides this workshop) to get ready for it?*)

30 Point Question

10. **What personal trait has the teen picked up from the parent?** (*One thing the parent has learned from the teen*)

Presenter Notes

Welcome people as they come in. I gave out a copy of CPYU's Parent Page to the parents as they entered. It gave them something to look at as we waited for everyone to arrive.

Once everyone arrives do a general welcome and a brief opening prayer. We prayed a Hail Mary together since our parish is Immaculate Conception. I didn't want to overwhelm anyone with a huge prayer service to start the night. Then give a brief summary of the agenda and purpose of tonight's gathering. Explain that there will be three exercises and that the first will be done with a different person (not your own parent/son/daughter) and the rest will be done with your respective family member. Tonight is not about instruction – it is a time to share your faith with one another. I note my personal experience as a parent of teens and the busyness that accompanies that. Most of my conversations with my own teens are about who has to be where and when. This may be a good point to insert the research about the amount of time that teens are engaged with media every day (seven and a half hours.) If you add that to the time they spend in school, there isn't much time in a day for us to have faith conversations with our teens. If the timing isn't right to include the data in the introduction, then include it in your closing comments. Depending on the mood of the group I may note that there will be prizes for one of the exercises.

Tell them that we have a special guest for tonight's workshop – Indiana Jones. Show the first clip that ends with the Nazi officer saying, "It's time to ask yourself what do you believe." Use that as the transition to talking about what faith is. The key concepts you want to address include:

- a) faith as gift and relationship, and
- b) faith as believing, trusting, and doing.

I don't spend a long time lecturing them on this. I summarize it with the question, "Is faith a noun or a verb?" I also use, "Is Eucharist a noun or a verb?" The fact that they are both nouns and verbs is key because they impact every aspect of our lives. As a presenter do what is comfortable for you. It's a balance between insulting the parents' intelligence by lecturing them and giving enough information to provide the context for the workshop. (See Background Information for Faith Presentation.)

Indiana Jones Clip Connections

Make your own comments to connect the clips to each of the exercises. They are noted in the outline above. I like to point out that the "breath of God" is the image that is used in the Penitent Man Will Pass portion because I use the workshop with Confirmation families. In the Footsteps of the Word clip I sometimes point out the connection between the father and son in that the father says exactly what mistake Indy will make before he makes it. It depends on the group dynamic that night. You may see something else in the clips that you want to use to connect the activities, which is great. The clips do a good job of engaging the audience in the exercises and process of the night. They keep the evening moving and most participants do not realize that an hour and a half has gone by when it is over.

In showing the final clip I note that the Holy Spirit helps us to choose wisely. Sometimes I comment on it is because the young people will have to make life choices that their parents send them to religion/faith formation classes and work so hard to instill good values, etc. into them.

Back to Back Game Show

Become the Game Show Host and have fun with it. It can be very humorous as you go through it. After they have tallied their points I ask for a show of hands who got 20 or more, 30 or more, etc. until we figure out who the winner is. For the prize I use a bag of small chocolates that can be shared with everyone in attendance.

Background Information for Faith Presentation:

An Activity of Trusting

Christian faith is a response to an invitation to a loyal and trusting relationship with God. Developing and deepening the adolescent's relationship with God in Jesus requires particular attention to and catechesis on the activity of personal and communal prayer. Catechesis attempts to dispose young people to awe, reverence, and wonder at the goodness of God. The loving relationship adolescents develop with God will shape and be shaped by their relationship with other people. The affective dimension of the Christian faith helps young people develop and deepen their sense of belonging within the faith community. Catechesis has the task of enabling adolescents to develop friendship-making and maintenance skills. Such a catechesis seeks to promote in adolescents a deep and abiding bond of friendship and good will toward the whole human family.

An Activity of Believing

The cognitive dimension of Christian faith—the activity of believing—requires that we provide opportunities for youth to deepen and expand their understanding of the scriptural/doctrinal expression of our faith tradition in ways appropriate to their readiness and maturity. We do this by showing the reasonableness of assenting to Catholic Christian beliefs, by helping youth draw on the wisdom of the Catholic Christian tradition to give meaning to their lives, and by enabling youth to think for themselves about matters of faith. We help them to articulate their understanding of the tradition in a language appropriate to their generation. (see GCD 88)

An Activity of Doing

Christian faith requires a catechesis that promotes a life based on the values of the Reign of God. This means that we present the Christian story as Good News, thus enabling young people to live as a Christian people—joyfully, hopefully, peacefully, and justly. Catechesis challenges young people to respond to God's love by living a life of loving service to others and by working for peace and justice on all levels of human existence—the personal, the interpersonal, and the social/political. The “doing of faith” leads to a deepening of faith. Faith leads to doing and doing leads to renewed faith.

Closing Prayer

Gather Sign of the Cross and Opening Prayer

Listen Matthew 17: 20

Respond

Invite the parents to touch the shoulder or heads of their teens as together they pray:

God of Youth,
your hope and promise abound in and through the young church.
Bless and hold our children close.
Give them eyes that see your presence each day,
ears that hear your words of everlasting life,
lips that speak your truth,
and hands that reach out to all in need.
May each step they take lead them closer to knowing you more deeply.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Invite the teens to touch the shoulder or heads of their parents as together they pray:

God of All Creation,
your breath gave life to all humanity.
Breathe into these parents your love and guidance,
so that they may parent with wisdom and compassion.
Gift them with your strength and courage
so they may proclaim your presence through their words and actions.
Enlighten them with words of truth and comfort as they are needed and
bring them patience and humility as they lead our family along this journey.
Help them pass onto their children a faith that matters,
with you as the center and foundation for our family.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Send

Invite everyone to pray the blessing for families on the back of their blessing card together:

May Jesus,
Who lived with Mary and Joseph in Nazareth,
Dwell also with our families.
Keep us safe from all harm,
And make us one in heart and mind.
Amen.