

Intolerance

Pages I-1 through I-4
Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT

Song: Voices that Challenge
Words and Music by: David Haas

CD 1, Track 9
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, gavel for Setting the Stage, poster board, scissors, markers, magazines, newspapers for the “Examples of Intolerance” Small Group Activity/Discussion.

Setting the Stage (15 minutes)

Play the game “The Judge Says.” Have one teen or adult be the judge. Play the game like “Simon Says.” Using his/her gavel for dramatic effect, the judge should be very intolerant, critical and even arbitrary about his/her judgments. Play until all are out. (Examples: touch your toes, touch the floor, clap your hands three times, do five jumping jacks, wink twice, etc.)

Opening Prayer

“Voices that Challenge” Litany (10 minutes)

Leader

For all children longing to be heard and respected,
For all those destroyed by oppression,
For the aged and the fearful,
For the poor and the silenced,
For the sick and the dying,
For those who suffer pain and injustice,
For those with disease and addiction,
For the victims of abuse and aggression,

Group Response

Give them a voice, O Lord!
Give them a voice, O Lord!
Give them a voice, O Lord!
Give them a voice, O Lord!
Give them a voice, O Lord!
Give them a voice, O Lord!
Give them a voice, O Lord!
Give them a voice, O Lord!

*Dear Lord, give us the desire to live in harmony and peace with others.
May all of us use our voices to honor and praise You at all times.
Make us tolerant of our differences but intolerant
of the injustices we commit against each other.
Give all Your creatures a voice and the desire to do Your will.
In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

Play the song “Voices that Challenge” by David Haas. CD 1, Track 9 of the FCYB Music CDs.

Small Group Activity/Discussion - “Examples of Intolerance” (20 minutes)

Read the Your Decision/Your Reward article on page I-1 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible –Next**. Then, divide the teens into two groups. Assign each group one of the following:

List examples of intolerance in our world. (Global)

List examples of intolerance in your corner of the world. (School, Community, Home)

Using the poster board, newspapers, magazines, markers and scissors, have each group produce a poster (featuring the titles above) to depict their ideas in either words or pictures. Ask a spokesperson for each group to describe and explain their poster. Discuss the teens’ answers to any questions or comments that come up as a result of their sharing.

Large Group Discussion - “Christ-like Tolerance” (15 minutes)

Have one of the teens read the 1 on 1 With Christ article on page I-4 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Realizing that Christ expects us to be intolerant of sin, ask the teens to think of some of the things Christ was tolerant of. Discuss the fact that there are some things that we should tolerate both globally and locally even though society might send us another message. Have the teens list some of these things.

Closing Prayer/Scripture Reflection (5 minutes)

Assign different teens to read the three Scripture passages at the top of page I-2 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Pause for few moments of silence allowing the teens to reflect on the meaning of these Scriptures. After any discussion, recite the following prayer:

The Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen!*

Bed Thinks

When you go to bed tonight ask yourself . . .

**What behavior am I most intolerant of in other people?
Ask Jesus to help you become more tolerant.**

(Type this message on a small piece of paper and give to each teen as they leave.)

Intolerance

Pages I-5 through I-8
Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT

Song: Voices that Challenge
Words and Music by: David Haas

CD 1, Track 9
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD and DVD player, pens/pencils and paper for teens to record their thoughts during the song in the Opening Prayer, DVD or tape of a movie clip for the Putting My Faith Into Action Large Group Discussion.

Setting the Stage

No special arrangements are needed to set the stage for this session plan.

Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Prayerfully listen to the song “*Voices that Challenge*” by David Haas. CD1, Track 9 of the FCYB Music CDs. Have the teens reflect on what the lyrics of the song mean to them.

What Jesus Did

Large Group Discussion – “Defining Hypocrisy” (10 minutes)

Proclaim the Scripture at the top of page I-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, have one teen read the What Jesus Did article on the same page. Discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

What is hypocrisy? Give a different example of hypocrisy from Scripture.

Give an example of hypocrisy that you have observed in your experience or in society.

Jesus was very intolerant of hypocrisy. Why was that so important to Him?

What are the consequences of being hypocritical, especially in matters of faith?

What Jesus Said

Large Group Discussion – “The One Week Challenge” (10 minutes)

Proclaim Luke 6:37 at the top of page I-6 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, read together the What Jesus Said article on the same page. Discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

What is Jesus saying in this Scripture passage?

How is tolerance or intolerance related to how you are treated by others?

Who is the person you have the hardest time tolerating - the person in your life who is currently hardest to get along with, to be around and certainly, to love?

Encourage the teens to think about the person they have identified. Challenge them to go one week without criticizing this person—privately, publicly, or even in their thoughts. Remind them that if they mess up, they can start a new week over again. Remind them that they will be amazed at how doing this will change how they feel about this person.

Putting My Faith Into Action

Small Group Discussion - (10 minutes)

Divide the teens into groups of two or three to discuss the To Make or Break and Tips for Talking entries on page I-7 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

Make - Share an example of something someone might do that should not be tolerated. How should we respond to them? In the same way, share with each other something that we should tolerate (no matter how difficult) as a disciple of Christ.

Tips for Talking – Share how you feel about the issue of immigration. Discuss how we, as Catholics, should respond to the challenges our country faces. What role does tolerance play in putting what the Catholic Church teaches into action?

Large Group Discussion – “Speaking Up” (15 minutes)

Have the teens read the In My Example article beginning at the bottom of page I-7 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. If available, show a clip from a movie which illustrates someone speaking up for someone else. (An example would be the scene from “Never Been Kissed” when Josie prevents the popular kids from pouring dog food in her friend, Aldys.) Discuss the ideas in this article.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

A Disciple’s Prayer for Tolerance

Heavenly Father, help those blinded by pride to see that everyone was created in Your likeness. Bless those hurt by rudeness, numbed by neglect and crippled by the injustice of the intolerance in the world. Turn our eyes to You for tolerance, healing and renewed faith in You. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Mindful in the Morning

When you wake up in the morning, before you get out of bed . . .

Think of the person you have chosen as your “One Week Challenge.” Ask God to help you go through each day for an entire week without criticizing this person — privately, publicly, or even in your thoughts. Pray for the tolerance to love them instead.

(Type this message on a small piece of paper and give to each teen as they leave.)