

Money

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

Song: Give the Lord Your Heart
Words and Music by: Michael Mahler

CD 2, Track 1
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, copies of the “Money Quotient Survey” for each teen for Setting the Stage, paper, pens/pencils for the “A Scriptural Slogan” Small Group Activity, pens/pencils and slips of paper for “The ONE Month Challenge” Large Group Activity.

Setting the Stage (10 minutes)

After the teens are settled, have them each fill out a “Money Quotient” survey.

Money Quotient Survey

Check the statements that apply to you.

- I never have any money because I spend it as soon as I get it.
- When I am depressed I like to buy something. I call it “shopping therapy.”
- I am a tight wad. I never spend money.....unless it is someone else’s.
- When I grow up I plan to be.....rich.
- My motto is “He who dies with the most toys, wins.”
- My needs are few.
- I would rather give to others than spend money on myself.
- I always give God 10 % back when I earn money working.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

The adult leader should read this slowly, pausing after each phrase for reflection.

(Think about the following)

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness,
you are more blessed than millions of people who won't survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the people in the world.

If you have any money in the bank or your wallet, or just spare change in a cup on your dresser, you are already richer than 92% of all the people in the world.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful,
you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch. You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.

St. Matthew, help us to grow in understanding of how money doesn't always bring happiness. Help us realize how truly blessed we are in so many other ways. For your intercession we pray, Amen.

Large Group Discussion – “The ONE Month Challenge” (15 minutes)

Review and discuss the teens’ answers to the “Money Quotient Survey.” Follow-up with a discussion of their answers to these questions:

Do you find joy or happiness from buying something?

How long does this happiness last?

Do you need to buy bigger and better things as time goes on in order to be satisfied?”

After your discussion, issue them this first challenge. **Challenge #1** – The next time you want something really badly, wait ONE month before deciding to buy it to see if you still really want it.

Small Group Activity – “A Scriptural Slogan” (15 minutes)

Divide the teens into into small groups. Have each group read the Scripture passages on page K-2 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Ask each team to create a slogan that rephrases each Scripture in the context of their lives. Have each group share their slogans with the larger group.

Large Group Activity – “The ONE Week Challenge” (15 minutes)

Ask each teen to make a list of what God has given them. Encourage them to consider more than just things (i.e. family, friends, health, assurance, comfort, etc.). When they are finished, ask volunteers to share what they written. Lead a discussion with a goal of helping them come to the realization that everything they have is a gift from God. After the discussion, issue them this second challenge.

Challenge #2 – Ask the teens to help you list all the “modern conveniences” that they think they **cannot live without** (i.e. cell phones, i-pods, TVs, video games, computer games, micro-waves, music, etc.). As you create the list together, ask one teen to write each example on a separate slip of paper, fold it, and put it in a sack. Then, challenge the teens to have the courage to agree to go without whatever they draw out of the sack for the next full week. (Do not force the teens to participate – only accept volunteers.) Those who participate can share their experience with the larger group at some time in the future.

Closing Prayer

*Christ, we ask You to help those who will go to bed hungry tonight.
Let us pray to the Lord. Response: “Lord, hear our prayer.”*

*Christ, we ask You to help the unemployed.
Let us pray to the Lord. Response: “Lord, hear our prayer.”*

*Christ, we ask You to help those people of the world affected by drought, famine and war.
Let us pray to the Lord. Response: “Lord, hear our prayer.”*

Bed Thinks

When you go to bed tonight . . .

Think of one of the slogans from the Small Group Activity and ask God to help you incorporate the truth of Scripture into your life.

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

Money

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

Song: Give the Lord Your Heart
Words and Music by: Michael Mahler

CD 2, Track 1
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, pens or markers and label paper to create the bumper stickers in the What Jesus Said Small Group Activity.

Setting the Stage

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

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin with a spontaneous prayer or by prayerfully listening to the song “*Give the Lord Your Heart*” by Michael Mahler. CD 2, Track 1 of the FCYB CDs.

Putting My Faith Into Action

Large Group Discussion – “Drinking Up the Good Life” (15 minutes)

To begin this discussion, read the following:

Guided Mediation

Imagine you are stranded on a remote, deserted tropical island. You have stayed alive by eating berries and bugs. You were able to get your hands on a coconut but had no tool to open it. It has been days since you have had anything to eat or drink. You are so hungry you can't sleep. You are so thirsty you know you are at risk of death if your situation doesn't change soon. You are sitting on the beach looking out at the ocean, trying to focus your mind on what you should do. Water--that is all you can see. You convince yourself that just drinking a little will give you relief from your thirst. So you take a gulp of salt water and then another, and another. You know you shouldn't but you just can't stop yourself.

Remind the group that in our society, it is not the drinking of salt water to quench our thirst that tempts us. In our society, we are surrounded by things money can buy and the thirst we are trying to quench is our need for happiness and fulfillment. Against this backdrop, discuss the teens' answers to these questions:

What are some of the things people in our society think will fulfill them?

Have you ever fallen into the trap of obsessing over a purchase that you just knew would bring you happiness?

Have you ever “coveted” the newest thing on the market? What was it? Did you buy it? Did it bring you permanent or temporary happiness?

When people take this to an extreme what happens?
(Answer: *credit card debt, bankruptcy, problems in relationships*).

What happens to them spiritually?

What Jesus Said

Small Group Discussion/Activity – “Creating a Bumper Sticker” (10 minutes)

Proclaim Luke 12:15 at the top of the What Jesus Said article on page K-6 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

What is the difference between greed and covetousness?

Why are these sins so dangerous, especially for teens?

How do you think a 21st Century application of what Jesus is telling us in this Scripture would read?

Then have the teens divide up into pairs and ask each team to create a bumper sticker that could best illustrate this teaching of Jesus. Encourage the teams to be as original and creative as possible (even with the artwork). Share in the larger group what each team has developed.

What Jesus Did

Large Group Discussion (10 minutes)

Read together Matthew 22:20-21 at the top of page K-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

What is the background of this Scripture story?

What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us about money?

What role did Jesus think Caesar had in the lives of the Jews? Did He respect Caesar?

What does this have to do with authority, rules, or obligation?

Conclude by reading the What Jesus Did article on page K-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

Putting My Faith Into Action

Small Group Discussion (15 minutes)

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

Make – Share with each other a time when you gave your own money for a good cause. How does “giving” money to good causes make you feel? Discuss with each other what tithing means to you. Why do you think the Church teaches that this practice is so important?

Break – Share with each other a time when you judged someone by the way they dressed only to later find out that your first impression of them was wrong.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

A Disciple’s Prayer about Money

Jesus, make me content with the money and possessions I have. Inspire me to use the abundance in my life as a tool to praise and honor You. Give me humility in determining my wants and appreciation in recognizing how You fulfill my needs. Make me an example for others in how I respond to Your blessings. Amen.

Mindful in the Morning

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

Acknowledge that all you have is a gift from God and thank Him.

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