

Relationships

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

Song: One In His Name

CD 2, Track 4

Words and Music by: Larry Schexnaydre and Kenny Braud

FCYB Music CDs

Soloist: Michael Mahler

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, 3-wick candle, matches, holy water, bowl or font for Setting the Stage, slips of paper, paper sack, markerboard or chalkboard for the “When you” Large Group Discussion and the “Emotional Bank Account” Large Group Discussion.

Setting the Stage

Call teens to prayer. Light a 3-wick candle. Have each teen come forward and bless herself/ himself with holy water.

Opening Prayer/Music Reflection (10 minutes)

(Spoken softly after the sign of the cross) Think about the words we say while making the sign of the cross. (Say them again slowly) “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” How often we hear prayers (no matter what Christian faith) concluded with the words: “We ask you this, in Jesus’ name, Amen!” What is in a name? What’s the essence of the relationship between Jesus and His Father and the Holy Spirit? Listen to this song. Relax and focus on how important Jesus is in that relationship . . . think about your relationship with Him. Play the song, “*One In His Name*” by Larry Schexnaydre and Kenny Braud. CD 2, Track 4 of the FCYB Music CDs. When the song is finished, conclude with:

*Dear Lord: “We gather as one people. We speak with one voice.
We form a holy union to seek a greater choice, united in a testament to carry on the flame.
The world will be our witness, One in His name!” Amen.*

Large Group Discussion - “Defining the Trinity” (10 minutes)

As a faith community, we are all indeed, “One in His Name.” What truth of our faith does the 3-wick candle remind you of? (Answer: *The Trinity*) Ask the teens to define the Trinity. Someone once described the Holy Spirit as the great Love that the Father and the Son have for each other manifested in the third person of the Trinity. The Trinity is three persons in relationship with each other. God, as Trinity, models relationship for mankind.

Large Group Discussion – “When you” (15 minutes)

Read together the “when you” situations found on page N-2 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Have the teens create as many additional similar situations. After brainstorming only these new “When you” scenarios (using a markerboard or chalkboard to capture their answers), write each one of them on a slip of paper and put it in a sack. Have the teens take out a slip of paper, read the new “When you” statement. Ask the entire group to brainstorm out loud what the corresponding “Then you” and “Your reward” statements would be for that situation.

Some additional “When you” statements that you could consider using might be:

- * When you are asked to baby sit your little brother....
- * When you find out your grandmother has broken her wrist....
- * When you find out your aunt will be visiting from out of state...
- * When you see trash on the ground at the park...
- * When you find out your neighbor is in the hospital...
- * When your co-worker wants to get off work to go to a concert...

Large Group Discussion – “Emotional Bank Account” (15 minutes)

Say to the teens something like this, “Let’s focus just for a minute on your relationship with your parents.” “Do any of you find this relationship challenging?” “If so, Why?” (Let teens respond.) “Did you know that in your relationship with your parents, (and all your relationships), you have an “emotional bank account?” Use a markerboard or chalkboard to set up a bank statement to illustrate this concept. Have teens give you ideas of withdrawals and deposits to fill in the chart.

EMOTIONAL BANK STATEMENT

Account: # 123456789

Opening balance:	
Deposit:	
Withdrawal:	
Deposit:	
Withdrawal:	
Deposit:	
Withdrawal:	
Deposit:	
Ending balance:	

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Ask each teen to spend a few minutes in silence thinking of a relationship that they are struggling with. Have them say a prayer for that person and for healing in that relationship. After a period of silence, the adult leader can say a personal (or the following) prayer:

Dear God, through the intercession of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica, help us to be mindful of the relationships in our lives that need to be cared for and tended to. Give us the strength never to judge, inflict harm or persecute others for being different.

Bed Thinks

When you go to bed tonight . . .

**Think of the one person in your life who is the hardest for you to get along with.
Resolve that, tomorrow, you will go through the entire day without
saying anything bad about them. Ask God for help.**

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

Relationships

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

Song: One In His Name

Words and Music by: Larry Schexnaydre and Kenny Braud

Soloist: Michael Mahler

CD 2, Track 4

FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, a notepad for each teen for the Opening Prayer Activity pens/pencils, notepads and developed questions for the worksheets for the What Jesus Did Large Group Discussion.

Setting the Stage

As the teens are gathering, have the song “*One in His Name*” by Larry Schexnaydre and Kenny Braud playing in the background. CD 2, Track 4 of the FCYB Music CDs.

Opening Prayer (15 minutes)

In My Example

Have the teens do the exercise described in the In My Example article on page N-8 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. After the teens have made their list and reviewed it, lead them in a discussion based on the last two paragraphs of this article. Be sure to discuss concrete ways that we can grow in our relationship with Jesus. Talk about the important roles that prayer, Scripture reading/study and the frequent reception of the Sacraments play in sustaining that relationship. Ask the teens how these three practices in maintaining our relationship with Christ compare to the things we do to maintain our relationship with others. Conclude with:

A Disciple’s Prayer about Relationships

Dear God, through the intercession of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica, give me the wisdom I need to value my relationship with You more than any other. Help me to be mindful of the relationships in my life that need to be cared for and tended to. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

What Jesus Did

Large Group Discussion/Activity – “The Family of Jesus” (20 minutes)

Proclaim the Scriptures Mark 3:31-35 and Luke 2:41-49 from the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Follow up with a discussion of the teens’ answers to these questions:

Do you find Jesus’ response in these two instances confusing?

What point do you think Jesus is making in these Scripture passages?

After a discussion, have one of the teens read the What Jesus Did article on page N-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, divide the participants into three groups. Assign each group a title for Jesus, either “priest,” “prophet,” or “king.” Have the group discuss and determine what each title means in relation to Jesus. To facilitate this activity, have a worksheet with questions for each group to fill out as a team. Include a question asking how teens in our society can participate with Jesus in His office as priest, prophet or king. (Each question should be worded specifically for that group.) You may need to have some reference material available for the teams to use. When they have completed their questionnaires, have a spokesman for each of the smaller groups report back to the larger group.

Putting My Faith Into Action

Small Group Discussions (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 N-7 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

Make – Share a time when you were concerned about a choice a friend was making in their relationships and/or what you did to try to address your concerns.

Break – Share with your group about a difficult relationship in your life. Is there someone you are currently having trouble getting along with? Encourage each other to heal the break in that relationship by challenging each other to the “7-Day Test” (going seven days without saying anything negative about that person).

Tips for Talking – Role play some additional “Christ-like” responses to someone who denies God just because they cannot see Him.

What Jesus Said

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Proclaim Luke 6:27-28 found at the top of page N-6 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, ask the teens to close their eyes and listen as you read the first paragraph of the What Jesus Said article on the same page. Pause for a few moments of silence after reading this paragraph. Then, ask the teens: “Is there a relationship in your life that is broken and in need of mending?” Perhaps it is a personal relationship or is it a relationship between two other people who are important to you. Ask them to pray in silence for Jesus to heal that relationship. Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You know the concerns of our hearts. Please heal the relationships in our lives that are broken. Show us how to love and forgive like You do, Amen.

Mindful in the Morning

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

**Tell Jesus that you really want Him to be first on your list.
Ask Him to show you how to keep your relationship with Him the highest priority.**

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