

Responsibility

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

Song: We Are Called
Words and Music by: David Haas

CD 2, Track 6
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, paper, pens/pencils for the “My Responsibilities” Large Group Activity.

Setting the Stage

After the teens are comfortable and quiet, turn down the lights before beginning the Opening Prayer.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Proclaim Ezekiel 18:30-32 from the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. After a short period of silence, read (or ask one of the teens to read) the following - slowly and deliberately.

Leader: All of us are called to responsibility and a higher purpose in life. Ultimately, as Christians, that calling will lead us to an everlasting reward of life in heaven with God for all eternity. Are we ready for that day? What if it were tomorrow? Would we be able to say that we have answered God’s call? Have we acted with justice toward our family, our friends, those in our community and our world? Have we served others in response to this call? Do our lives reflect the same kind of love for others that God has for us? If not, today is our first best chance to create a new heart. Today, we can choose to live in a new spirit, walking humbly with God and with each other.

Immediately play “*We Are Called*” by David Haas as a reflection. CD 2, Track 6 of the FCYB Music CDs.

Large Group Activity – “My Responsibilities” (15 minutes)

Ask each teen to list on a piece of paper some of the things they are responsible for. After they have exhausted their own ideas have them look at the following three Scriptures: Philippians 3:12-16, Matthew 25:14-30, 2 Timothy 2:23-26 for some other ideas. Give them some time to add to their list.

Large Group Activity – “A Skit for One” (20 minutes)

Invite one of the teens to come forward to present an impromptu skit. All the participant needs to do is answer your questions. Start by asking “What are your plans for this weekend?” After the teen gives his/her answer, say, “And then?” Keep saying, “And then?” until he/she gets to their death and then say, “And then?” Obviously we are trying to illustrate that after death comes judgment. Discuss with the group the implications of this skit.

Large Group Discussion – “The Ultimate Responsibility” (10 minutes)

Read the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 in the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Discuss what this parable teaches us about our ultimate responsibility to prepare for our final judgment. After any discussion, read the 1 on 1 With Christ article on page P-4 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Ask teens about the role responsibility plays in life planning. Stress to them that no one can ultimately be responsible for their salvation except themselves.

Closing Prayer – “The Final Interview” (5 minutes)

The adult leader should slowly read this guided meditation in a prayerful voice and atmosphere.

“Hi, I’m St. Peter. Come in, come in. Our Lord will be with you in just a moment.” St. Peter escorts you into a room. It is relatively bare. There is a desk with a chair. Next to it is another chair, an overstuffed, comfortable chair. The set-up kind of reminds you of the set on a TV talk show. You ask, a little anxiously, “What’s going to happen next?”

St. Peter answers, “Your judgment. You knew about the judgment didn’t you? It says in the Scriptures that our Lord will repay every man for what he has done. You do remember that point don’t you? Well, now is your time for accountability.” “Have a seat in this comfortable chair.”

With that, Peter leaves you alone in the room. After what seems like forever (no pun intended) the door to the room slowly opens and a man quietly enters. You recognize Him as Jesus. He is clothed in a dazzling white garment. His manner is calm and serene. He sits down at the desk. You are too scared or too in awe to say anything. Jesus greets you by name and pulls a file from the desk. He opens it deliberately.

“This won’t take long,” he says. “I just have a few questions to ask you.”

“When I was hungry did you give me food?”

“When I was thirsty did you give me drink?”

“When I was a stranger did you welcome me?”

“When I was naked did you clothe me?”

“When I was in prison did you visit me?”

Christ then pauses and His questions seem to stop. But then he asks one more....

“What reward do you think you have earned? Where do you think I should send you?”

(Pause in silence)

Bed Thinks

When you go to bed tonight, ask yourself . . .

What is one thing I can do this week to prepare for my personal judgment?

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

Responsibility

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

Song: We Are Called
Words and Music by: David Haas

CD 2, Track 6
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, a notepad and pen for each teen for the What Jesus Said Large Group Discussion, TV, VCR/DVD player and a clip from the movie “*Jesus of Nazareth*” and a TV for the What Jesus Did Large Group Discussion.

Setting the Stage

As the teens are gathering, have the song, “*We Are Called*” by David Haas playing in the background. CD 2, Track 6 of the FCYB Music CDs.

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, be with us as we gather today. Open our minds and our hearts to know what it means to live responsibly in Your eyes, Amen.

What Jesus Said

Large Group Discussion/Activity – “You’ve Got Talent” – (15 minutes)

Proclaim Matthew 25:14-30 from the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, discuss the teens’ answers to the following questions:

- What happened in this parable? What is a “talent” in the context of this story?
- Why do you think the person who was given one talent didn’t invest it?
- What message is Jesus sending to those who invested their talents for a profit?
- What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us with this parable?

Talents (in a traditional sense) are also gifts from God. Ask the teens to consider what “talents” has God given them? Ask them, “What are you doing with your talents?” “What are you responsible for doing with your God-given talent?” Remind them that they probably have talents that they don’t even recognize in themselves – even though other people can see them. Then, organize the group in a circle. (You may need to use more than one circle depending on the number of teens in the full group.) Give each person a piece of paper and a pen/pencil. Have them put their name at the top of the page. Then ask them to pass their page to the person to the right of them in the circle. As the pages circulate, have each person write down a talent or positive attribute they see in the person whose name appears at the top of the paper. After each person has written something, have them pass the paper on to the next person on the right. As soon as each page completes the circle, give the teens an opportunity to sit quietly to read what their peers have written about them. Stress how common it is for us not to be able to see in ourselves what others plainly see. Also, stress the responsibility we have to God and to others to use the talents He has given us.

What Jesus Did

Large Group Discussion – “Taking Responsibility of Others” – (15 minutes)

Proclaim John 19:26-27 from the top of page P-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then show the video clip from the movie “*Jesus of Nazareth*” that is depicted in this Scripture passage. After reading the What Jesus Did article on this same page, discuss the teens’ answers to the following questions:

Are you grandparents or great grandparents still alive? If so, how old are they? Are your parents involved in their care? Can you see that one day you may be responsible for the care of your parents? How do you think acting responsibly in this role is an “imitation of Christ?”

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 P-7 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

Make – Share a time when you failed to tell your parents where you were going and/or who you were going with and what the consequences were.

Break – Share how you feel when someone blames someone else for their irresponsible choice.

Tips for Talking – Share with each other a time when you found yourself in this situation. Did you get involved? If so, why? If not, what stopped you?

In My Example

Large Group Discussion (15 minutes)

Read the In My Example article beginning at the bottom of page P-7 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

What are some behaviors that some teens do that that can rob them of their teen years?

Are these responsibilities that they have because of choices they have made or did circumstances of their lives give them the responsibilities?

Do you feel that you are content to be in the stage of life you are in or do you find yourself always wishing for the next stage?

Closing Prayer

A Disciples Prayer for Responsibility

Dear Jesus, You took responsibility for my sins through Your passion and death on the cross.

*Make me responsible to You in my mind and heart. Make me responsible to others as
Your eyes and hands reaching out to them.*

Give me the courage to respond and the desire to always do Your will, Amen.

Mindful in the Morning

When you wake up before you get out of bed . . .

Ask God to reveal ways that you can take responsibility for older members of your family.

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