

Service

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

Song: What You Have Done For Me
Words and Music by: Tony Alonso

CD 2, Track 7
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, candle, matches, a water basin or bowl, towels for each participant in the Opening Prayer “Service Ritual,” pens/pencils, index cards for the “Motives of Our Service” Large Group Discussion.

Opening Prayer – “Service Ritual” (15 minutes)

Begin the session with a washing of the feet ritual. Dim the lights, light a candle and play soft instrumental music. (*“In The Spirit of Taizé”* CD 2, Track 3 on the FCYB CDs is a good choice.)

With the music lowered, ask one of the students to proclaim John 13:4-5 at the bottom of page Q-2 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

Then without any comment, begin the ritual. Ask the teens to quietly remove their socks and shoes. Wash each of the teens’ feet in a basin of water. (A second adult could dry the feet.)

Large Group Discussion – “Making a Difference Through Service” (15 minutes)

Read the Your Decision/Your Reward article on page Q-1 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, share with the teens about a time when your service to someone else really made an impression on you. Ask the teens to share about a service project they have participated in. Then, discuss the teens’ answers these or any other related questions:

Why did you get involved when you did?

What prompted you to reach out in the first place?

What was the response of the person you served?

How did you feel after the experience?

How did the experience change you?

Large Group Skit –“The Real Reward of Service” (15 minutes)

Read paragraph 1 and 2 of the 1 on 1 With Christ article on page Q-4 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Have two teens read the following questions and answers (as in a skit). Then, after each set, ask the group to suggest as many ways as possible that the second person could answer the question in each scenario demonstrating a “Christ-like” response.

Setting: Two people in a question and answer setting:

First Person: “I see here that you have given \$5,000 a year to St. Jude’s Hospital.” “Why?”

Second Person: “It’s a wonderful tax write-off.”

First Person: “It says here you took in your niece for two years.” “Why?”

Second Person: “You see she couldn’t afford to live on her own while attending college, plus it works out well for us with all the free baby-sitting we’ll get her to do.”

First Person: “I see that you did 20 hours of community service your senior year.”

Second Person: “Oh yeah, I was required to do that for National Honor Society.”

Large Group Discussion – “The Motives of Our Service” (10 minutes)

Is it wrong if our service to others calls attention to, or recognizes us for, that very service? Discuss several examples of how this might happen. Have the teens think of (and make a commitment to) one specific way they can serve someone this week with no consideration for recognition of themselves. Have them write it on an index card and give to a peer. This peer will help them be accountable for completing the service and/or reporting it back to the group at some later time.

Music Reflection (5 minutes)

Listen to “*What You Have Done For Me*” by Tony Alonso. CD 2, Track 7 of the FCYB Music CDs.

Closing Prayer

Read Matthew 25:24-41 from the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

Bed Thinks

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

**“How am I being asked to serve others in my life?
What vocation am I being called to?
Marriage? The Single Life? The Priesthood? The Religious Life?”**

It’s not too early in life to listen for God’s answer.

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

Service

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

Song: What You Have Done For Me
Words and Music by: Tony Alonso

CD 2, Track 7
FCYB Music CDs

Materials Needed

Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, a bowl, a pitcher of water, and a hand towel for each teen, a candle for the Closing Prayer Ritual.

Setting the Stage

As the teens are gathering, have the song “*What You Have Done for Me*” by Tony Alonso, playing in the background. CD 2, Track 7 of the FCYB Music CDs.

Opening Prayer

A Disciple’s Prayer about Service

Jesus, You taught us that the greatest among you must be a servant to others. Give me the courage to humble myself and exalt others by serving their needs. When others need help, encourage me to help them. When others need prayer, inspire me to pray for them. Help me see You in their need. And, through my service, help them see You in me. Make me a loving servant in Your name, Amen.

What Jesus Did

Large-Group Discussion – “Me First” (10 minutes)

Read the What Jesus Did Scripture and article on page Q-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, begin a discussion of this article with this joke.

Q. How many prima donna’s does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Just one, to hold the light bulb, because the whole world revolves around them.

Do you think this joke holds some truth? Do you think some teens have the attitude of “prima donna” or a “me first” attitude? What does this look like in your experience? How does this picture differ from the message sent in John 13:5? What was Jesus trying to teach us by His example? Ask the teens give specific examples of how they can serve in their family, school, church, and community.

What Jesus Said

Large-Group Discussion – “The Good Samaritan” (15 minutes)

Read Luke 10:34-35 at the top of page Q-6 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. If possible, have several members of the group pantomime the scene of the good Samaritan as you slowly read the first paragraph of the article. Then, discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

Have you ever seen someone in need but didn’t want to get involved?

Have you ever thought about doing something for someone else but didn’t follow through?

When was the last time you saw someone in need and helped him or her?

What do you think the saying “Love looks for an opportunity to serve.” means?

Putting My Faith Into Action

Small Group Discussion (15 minutes)

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

Make - Share with each other if you did something last Advent/Christmas to help someone in need.

Break - Share with each other a time when you did something for someone else but didn't have the best attitude, or a time when you were really excited about serving someone.

Tips for Talking - Role-play different versions of this scenario.

In My Example

Large Group Discussion – “Jumping Through Hoops” (10 minutes)

Read the first paragraph of the In My Example article on page Q-8 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Using questions found in the second paragraph, lead a discussion on what motivates us to do service. Challenge the teens either as individuals, pairs, or the entire group to do some act of service with no reward attached.

Closing Prayer – “Hand-Washing Ritual” (10 minutes)

Have the group sit in a circle around a table. Light a single candle and place it on the table. (If your group is large you may want to set up several ritual stations.) The first four people approach the table; one to have his/her hands washed, one to hold the bowl, one to pour the water, one to dry the hands. (The person drying the hands should actually dry the hands not just hand the person the towel.) After the first person hands are washed the bowl is passed to that person. The person who had been holding the bowl takes the pitcher. The person who had been holding the pitcher takes the towel. The person who had been drying will be the next to get his/her hands washed. After each of the four have had their hands washed they sit back down and the next four teens from the group perform the ritual.

After everyone is seated again, proclaim John 13: 1-9, 12-17 from the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. End with a moment of silence.

In order for this ritual to work smoothly, the first four participants should practice in advance. You may want to give a demonstration of the rotation to the group. The challenge to any ritual is getting the participants to do it in silence. To help set the proper tone for the ritual, it is good to have soft instrumental music playing in the background and the lights dimmed.

Mindful in the Morning

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

Ask Jesus to help you look for the opportunity to serve today.

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