

# Winning and Losing

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

**Song:** You're On My Side

CD 2, Track 10

**Words and Music by:** David C. Smith

FCYB Music CDs

**Soloists:** Crossed Hearts

## Materials Needed

**Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, newspapers, scissors, poster board for Setting the Stage, pens/pencils, copy of "the list" (one per person), a timer, index cards for "The Catholic-gories game" Large Group Discussion, markerboard or chalkboard for the "Winning By Losing" Large Group Discussion.

## Setting the Stage (15 minutes)

Gather teens together in two "Prayer Groups." Ask them to find and cut out words from newspapers and/or magazines to create the texts of both the *Opening and Closing Prayers*. Glue the words onto a piece of poster board for displaying during the prayers. Using "*Winning and Losing*" as their themes, the first group will create the words for the "Opening Prayer," while the second group will create the words for the "Closing Prayer." While the teens work, play song "*You're On My Side*" by David C. Smith in the background. CD 2, Track 10 of the FCYB Music CDs (repeat as necessary).

## Opening Prayer

Using the prayer they have created in the Setting the Stage, have a representative from the first group read their Opening Prayer.

## Large Group Discussion - "A Winning Resume" (10 minutes)

Read the first paragraph of the Your Decision/Your Reward article on page T-1 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Ask the group, "Would you consider someone with the following resume a loser or a winner?" (Read the bulleted resume describing Christ that follows). Discuss the teens' answers to the following questions:

Was Christ a loser according to the world's standards?

In light of eternity, was he a winner?

What does this teach us about how we evaluate "success" in another person?

Read the last two paragraphs of the same article.

## Large Group Activity – "The Catholic-gories Game" (15 minutes)

Set up: Put index cards with some letters of the alphabet on each card on the table in front of the group. Give each participant a pen/pencil and some paper. Also give each participant a copy of the category list (below) or, write this list on a markerboard or chalkboard large enough for all to see.

**Directions:** The object of the game is for the participants to write down a word for every category on the list that begins with the letter of the alphabet chosen for each round. 2 points are scored for each appropriate answer. (Option: You might want to consider adding additional points (3) for any correct answer that is not duplicated by another player in each round or for any person who is able to fill a correct word in for each category in each round.

**To Begin Play:** Choose a letter of the alphabet from the stack and announce to the group what the letter is for the round. Set a kitchen timer for a selected number of minutes for each round (1 to 2 minutes per round will force them to think fast and write even faster). When the timer goes off, the players must put down their pens/pencils. Read off each category and have the players simultaneously read their answers. Play as many rounds as time allows or depending on how much fun the teens are having with the game. (You may want to pre-select some of the most common letters to use removing letters like Z or X which may prove to be too challenging.)

List:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. a book of the Bible                  | 7. a saint                                   |
| 2. a sin                                | 8. a virtue                                  |
| 3. something found in a Catholic church | 9. a prayer                                  |
| 4. a name of a person found in the OT   | 10. a name of a person found in the NT       |
| 5. something to do with a Sacrament     | 11. a mystery of the Rosary                  |
| 6. something to do with Lent or Easter  | 12. something to do with Advent or Christmas |

### **Small Group Discussion/Activity – “Winning by Losing” (10 minutes)**

Proclaim Mark 9:33-35 from the text pages in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible - NEXT**. Then, discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

What do you think Christ meant in this Scripture?

Can you think of some examples when winning by the world’s standards is really losing?

(Example: Cheating to get an “A” on a test. You may get an “A” but you sinned to earn it.)

Divide into pairs. Have each pair write two examples of the opposite (how they could lose by today’s standards but really win). Have the pairs share their suggestions as you compile the complete list on a markerboard or chalkboard of the “Top Ten Ways You Can Win by Losing.”

### **Closing Prayer**

Using the prayer they created in the Setting the Stage activity, have a representative from the second group read their “*Closing Prayer*.”

### **Bed Thinks**

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

**When was the last time that I was a bad winner or a sore loser?**

**How could I have handled the situation in a better way?**

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

# Winning and Losing

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

**Song:** You're On My Side

CD 2, Track 10

**Words and Music by:** David C. Smith

FCYB Music CDs

**Soloists:** Crossed Hearts

## Materials Needed

**Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**, FCYB Music CDs, CD player, a candle for each teen for the Opening Prayer Ritual, markerboard or chalkboard for completing the chart to be completed in the What Jesus Said Large Group Discussion.

## Setting the Stage

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

### What Jesus Did

### **Opening Prayer/Ritual – “The Meaning of Death” (20 minutes)**

Begin by discussing the teens’ answers to these questions:

What is your experience with death?

Encourage to them share their stories of a death of a family member, a friend or even a pet.

How did you feel when you experienced this loss?

Lead into a discussion of what the teens feel about the prospect of their own death.

Do you ever think about death?

When you think about your own death what feelings do you have?

Does death scare you? If so, why? If not, why not?

Then, proclaim John 11:25 and read the What Jesus Did article on page T-5 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Then, discuss the teens’ answers to these questions:

What did Jesus’ death do?

What does His death ensure those who believe in Him?

Does this give you hope at the thought of your own death?

Are you confident in your belief in Jesus?

Close the Opening Prayer with a ritual. Have those who shared about the death of someone come forward and, after lighting a candle, say: “Eternal rest grant unto \_\_\_\_\_, O Lord.” The other teens respond, “And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.”

## What Jesus Said

### **Large Group Discussion – “The Reward of Living as a Disciple of Christ” (20 minutes)**

Proclaim Luke 18:29-30 and then read the first paragraph of the What Jesus Said article on page T-6 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. Ask the teens to brainstorm with you as you fill out a chart entitled “Living a Christian Life.” At the top of the first column on the left, write: “What you may have to sacrifice.” At the top of the second column in the center, write: “The rewards you might get in this life.” Leave a space for a third column, (which you can add later in summation after the discussion) which could read: “Eternal Rewards.” The answer in this column would be the same for each example the teens come up with: “Happiness with God forever.” Discuss the teens’ suggestions as you complete the chart. Summarize this discussion with the completion of the third column emphasizing our confidence in an eternal reward if we live as disciples 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 T-7 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**.

Make – Share what you do when you fail at something or lose in a game.

Break – Discuss how giving credit to God when you succeed is a sign of humility.

Tips for Talking – Role play some scenario involving cheating and how we should respond as a disciple of Christ.

### **Closing Prayer/Reflection – (5 minutes)**

Prepare eight teens to each read one of the statements of the word DISCIPLE at the end of the In My Example article on page T-8 in the **Fireside Catholic Youth Bible – NEXT**. After prayerfully reading this reflection, close with:

#### *A Disciple’s Prayer about Winning and Losing*

*Heavenly Father, give me the humility to win with grace and the courage to accept my defeats with dignity. Keep me focused on the only finish line that really matters, eternal life with You in heaven. Give me the focus I need to live according to Your will and the opportunity to be a guiding light for others to follow. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.*

### **Mindful in the Morning**

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

**Thank Jesus for the gift of the opportunity for eternal life  
with Him in heaven that He won for you by dying on the cross.**

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