



HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH MINISTRY



FALL 2010 SEMESTER

"Discover the Sacred"

AUGUST

- 22nd: Parent Orientation Meeting
29th: Lights Out Dodge Ball (Fall Kick Off)

SEPTEMBER

- 5th: NO LT, Labor Day Weekend
12th: Once Upon a Time... (Educational, You are part of salvation history)
19th: Capture the Bible (Social)
26th: Give It Away Now! (Issue: clean drinking water for Africa)

OCTOBER

- 3rd: BOND-Fire @ the Spielman's farm (Social)
10th: In the Beginning... (Educational, Is the Bible written literally or figuratively?)
17th: Pirate Treasure Hunt! (Social)
SATURDAY, 23rd: Core Member University @ Millersville
24th: Dispelled! (Issue: the Occult)
31st: NO LT, Happy Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 7th: Cut to the Heart (Issue: Depression)
12th- 14th: Narnia: Enter the Wardrobe (Fall Retreat)
21st: Coffee House (Social)
28th: I Told You So! (Educational, Old Testament foreshadows Christ's coming) [1st Sunday of Advent]

DECEMBER

- 5th: House Divided (Issue: Divorce)
FRIDAY, 10th: Opening night of "the Dawn Treader"
12th: Big Mouth (Educational, the Prophets as God's voice of truth)
19th: Christmas Caroling (Social)
26th: No LT, Christmas and New Years

JANUARY

- 2nd: SPY Birthday Bash! (Social)
9th: Wii Love Jesus (Social)
16th: Time to Be Bold! (Educational, the New Testament and Early Christian prosecution)
23rd: No Matter How Small (Issue: Prolife)
24th: March 4 Life Trip?
30th: The Feast (Educational, the Book of Revelation)



ONCE UPON A TIME
September 12th, 2010

GOAL: To introduce teenagers to the semester on Scripture by helping the teens to understand that they, even now, are characters in the story of salvation. The teens will also learn about the power of the Word and its central place in the Catholic faith.

ENVIRONMENT: Think storybook! Teens will feel like they've walked into a children's story book. On the walls will be large pictures of the cover of famous Children's Stories (Humpty Dumpty, Little Red Riding Hood, etc.) The CORE team will be dressed up as characters from these stories for added effect. The snack for tonight will also be story book themed (ex: apples for "Snow White", Pixie Sticks for "Peter Pan", Teddy Grams for "Goldie Locks and the Three Bears", Green Punch as witch's brew from "Hansel and Grettle")

GATHER: STORY TIME (7:15 pm – 7:25 pm)

Teens will be taken outside and broken into teams. The teens will be competing in a game that combines a relay race with charades. At the start of the race, one teen from each team will race to a different CORE member who will give this teen a character/a children's story. This teen will then race back to their group and act out the charade. When the team correctly guesses the charade, the next person in line will go. The first team done is the winner. They will win a gingerbread house made to look like our church!

PROCLAIM: ONCE UPON A TIME (7:25 – 7:35 pm)

See attached talk. The talk will cover how God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Scripture and that we are all characters in God's story.

BREAK: GOD'S STORY AND OUR STORY (7:40 pm – 8:05 pm)

Teens will be lead over to the Church for the start of the BREAK.

TEEN TESTIMONY (7:45 pm – 7:50 pm)

Once in the Church, the teens will hear a brief talk by an upper classman about how they have seen God moving in their life. This testimony will cover how we all have a story (or testimony) to tell about how we are characters in God's story of Salvation History.

TESTIMONY WRITING (7:50 – 8:05 pm)

Teens will be given the worksheet entitled "My Story" and given time to fill it out. They are told only they will see these sheets and to be honest and truthful with them. If they don't feel like they can answer a part of the sheet, they are to leave it blank. The music ministry team will play soft instrumental music during this time. When they are done, they will receive an envelope to put their

worksheet in. They're to write their name on the envelop. The CORE team will collect these and give these back to the teens on the last night of the semester.

SEND: VENERATION OF THE WORD (8:05 – 8:25 pm)

Teens will be invited forward to receive a Bible. Each Bible will have different verses marked in them. The teens will be told to return to their pew and read the verse and pray about why God would want them to receive that specific verse. During this time, the music minister will play Matt Maher's "Empty and Beautiful" and "The Word is Alive" by the Casting Crowns.

Close with a Hail Mary.

ONCE UPON A TIME

Scripture Semester Introduction, God's Story & Our Story LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

CATECHISM

- # 51
- # 101-104
- # 108

SCRIPTURE

- Jeremiah 29:11
John 1:1
2 Timothy 3:16

KEY CONCEPTS

- Scripture is the written word of God—it is a record of God's Revelation in history.
- The Catholic Church holds the real divine presence in the proclamation of the Gospel.
- God has chosen each person to play a unique role in His story of salvation.

GOAL

The goal of this night is to introduce the semester on Scripture. This Life Night will help the teens understand that they, even now, are characters in the story of salvation. The teens will also learn about the power of the Word and its central place in the Catholic faith.

ABOUT THIS NIGHT

This Life Night begins a new semester on Scripture. It is important to take time to gather as a Core team to reflect and pray about how this semester will unfold for the teens in the community. To help prepare, watch the semester introduction found on Life Teen Video Support 9 and read through the Core Catechesis section of this book found on pages 5-6.

This Life Night begins by taking the teens back to their childhood storybooks. As the teens enter, they will be given a snack and an opportunity to socialize. After a brief time of introduction and a get-to-know-you game, the teens will compete in a competition where they will guess the names of children's stories or nursery rhymes through either live charades or a taped skit. The competition will lead into a teaching on God's revelation in Scripture and practical ways Scripture can become part of their daily lives. The Break will give the teens an opportunity to write their story or testimony down as a way to see how their story fits into God's story. The night will end with a time of prayer and veneration of the Word.

PARENTAL NOTICE

This week begins a new semester on Scripture. We will be discussing how God is revealed to us through Sacred Scripture and how we have a part in His story of salvation. Here are a few follow up questions for you and your teen this week:

1. What is your favorite Scripture verse?
2. How have you seen God moving in your life? Where does your story fit into God's story?
3. Do you believe that God is truly present in Scripture?
4. How can we as a family better incorporate Scripture into our home?

ENVIRONMENT

Story Time! The environment for this night are childhood storybooks and nursery rhymes. Out of large cardboard boxes or poster board, re-create storybook covers like "Three Little Pigs," "Little Red Riding-Hood," "Humpty-Dumpty," "Goldie Locks and the Three Bears," etc. Hang the book covers on the walls or for an added effect, from the ceiling with fishing wire. In the front of the room have a large blanket and rocking chair as well as a bookshelf full of children's books.

NOTES

MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

Song: "Love Has Come" by Matt Maher (*End and the Beginning*, OCP)

Life Teen Video: Word on the Street (Video Support #1)

Video: The Bible Contains... (www.catholicmediahouse.com)

GATHER 25 Minutes

COOKIES AND MILK

As the teens gather into the meeting space, a few Core Members should greet them and offer them cookies and milk. The rest of the Core should take some time to get to know the teens while they are eating their snacks.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME (5 min)

The youth minister should gather all the teens together and welcome them to the night. He/She should take a few minutes to welcome all the teens to the new semester. The youth minister should especially welcome and introduce all the teens at Life Night for the first time. The youth minister should then invite all the Core Members to stand and have them briefly introduce themselves.

GET-TO-KNOW-YOU GAME:

SORTS AND MINGLE (10 min)

(Adapted from www.icebreakers.ws) There are two parts to this icebreaker: The first half is the "Sorts" game. The youth minister tosses out two contrasting choices and everyone must move either to one side of the room or the other side of the room (for example "Do you prefer the country or big cities?") Then the youth minister shouts out two more choices and everyone moves to the front or back of the room. In this way, each person must move to somewhere and can't get "lost" in the crowd. Some "sorts" that work well include: dogs vs. cats, books vs. movies, sweet vs. salty, casual vs. dress up, inside vs. outside, be on the stage performing vs. in the audience watching and so on.

The second half of the icebreaker, the "Mingle" game, works as follows: The youth minister shouts out a general category and the group is asked to mingle around to find others that have the same answer and they clump up to form a larger group. After about 30 seconds, the youth minister asks each group

call out their answer. If a person is unique and is the only one with a particular answer, that is OK. Examples of mingles: your favorite place in the world, your favorite dessert, the kind of animal you like best, who would you choose if you could have dinner with anyone, your favorite hobby, etc.

STORY TIME! (10 min)

Gather all the teens into groups of five. Instruct the teams to choose the order that the members of the team will compete in. When the game begins, the first actor on the team must race up to the front of the room. They will be shown piece of paper with the name of a children's story or nursery rhyme written on it, the more obscure, the better. The actor must race back to their group and silently act out (like charades) the story or nursery rhyme. Once the right answer is guessed the next actor will race up to the front and receive the next story or rhyme. The first group to get all five stories correct wins. Award the winning team with a prize like a gift card to a local coffee shop or iTunes.

PROCLAIM 10 Minutes

"ONCE UPON A TIME" TEACHING (10 min)

The Teaching for this night focuses on how each of us comes to know God through revelation. The teaching also gives practical examples of how the Scriptures can come alive for us in our daily life.

The teaching can be found on pages 16-18.

BREAK 25 Minutes

WHAT'S YOUR STORY? (20 min)

After the teaching, invite the teens into the church or chapel. Have a few Core Members already in the church or chapel to hand each teen a piece of blank paper and a pen. The Book of the Gospels should be displayed on the altar. As the teens enter, give each a piece of paper and a pen and instruct them to spread out. The youth minister should explain that each person has a unique role in God's story. Each person has a story to tell about his/her life. We must stop and take a few minutes to write the story of how God is working in our lives and moving us to the present moment. This story is called our testimony; it is a witness of God's story for our lives. Instruct the teens to take a few minutes in prayer and ask God to help them write their story of how He is moving in their lives. If necessary, have the youth minister give an example of his/her story written ahead of time. Have soft music playing in the background to keep a spirit of prayer. Give the teens 15 minutes to complete their stories. As teens begin to finish, invite the music minister to start a more contemplative time of worship to keep the teens focused.

TEEN WITNESS (5 min)

Before the Life Night, invite an upperclassman to prepare and practice their testimony about how he/she has seen God moving in his/her life. He/She can focus on their life before Christ, the moment they remember God coming into their heart fully and how they are changed now because of God. Be sure to rehearse and hear the testimony before the Life Night to help the teen make their points clear.

SEND 15 Minutes

GOD'S STORY & OUR STORY (5 min)

Take a few minutes to recap the night by reminding the teens that God's story of salvation is the greatest story ever told. Although it may contain stories of men and women who lived thousands of years ago, God still has something to say to each one us and His story is relevant to our lives. God is inviting us to be a part of His story.

Invite the teens to come forward to receive a Scripture verse from the Gospels and to sit around the altar to reflect on the Scripture and ask God to open their hearts to how their own story fits into God's larger story.

Here are a few possible Scripture verses for the teens to reflect on:

- John 1:1—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- Matthew 11:29-30—Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
- Matthew 4:19—And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
- John 1: 14— And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
- John 10:10— The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
- John 15:16— You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
- John 17:22— The glory which you, [Father], have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.

VENERATION OF THE WORD (5 min)

After a short time of worship close the night with Veneration of the Word. If possible, have the parish priest or deacon lead this portion of the night. Use the following explanation as a guide to explain to the teens Veneration of the Word:

(holding the Book of the Gospels)

For some of us, this book is only a book. We might open it once in a while when we are bored or on a retreat. We might have a favorite story or verse, but we are invited to more. This book is not just any book. This book contains the real, living presence of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus is fully present in the Eucharist, He too is fully present in the Holy Scriptures. "For this reason, the Church has always venerated (or worshiped) the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body...In the Scriptures, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and strength" (CCC 103-104). The Christian faith is not a religion "of the Book" but of the living and incarnate Word of God. We venerate the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures, not only in the Mass during the reading of the Gospels, but also tonight. It is in the Scriptures that we discover God's incredible story and how each and every one of us have a role to play in His story of salvation.

Close the night with a short time of veneration and worship of God in the Word with Matt Maher's "Love Has Come" (found on the *End and the Beginning* album and available through

the store at www.lifeteen.com). This song will help reinforce the message of God's presence in the Word and set the tone for veneration of the Word. The priest or deacon should pick up and elevate the Book of the Gospels, bless the group and process out of the church or chapel.

Close the night by praying the Hail Mary and Ave Maria.

GOING DEEPER

- Life Teen's Bible Geek, Mark Hart has recorded a DVD series called "T3: The Teen Timeline." This series makes the Bible come alive for Catholic teens by unpacking God's Word in a way they can relate to. Consider starting this eight-week Bible study throughout this Scripture semester. The "T3: The Teen Timeline" Bible study can be found through the Life Teen store at www.lifeteen.com.
- During this week, challenge the teens to look up their Scripture verse and memorize it this week.

ADAPTING THIS LIFE NIGHT

- If your group is smaller than 20 teens, adapt the night by asking the teens to partner with one person they do not know and share their testimony with each other instead of writing it down.
- If your group is larger than 100 teens, adapt the night by shortening the gather game. Have the Core Members tape short modern-day retellings of the children's stories or nursery rhymes. The stories should be two to four minutes in length. Try to record four or five videos. The groups must guess the story or nursery rhyme by standing up and yelling "milk and cookies." The first group to guess the video wins a prize like a gift card to a local coffee shop or iTunes.

ONCE UPON A TIME TEACHING

CCC 27-30, 44-45, 1718

CCC 27

Council of Trent, 6.5
Confessions, 1.1

CCC 51

CCC 54-64, 70-72

CCC 142-123

God's creation makes him known, in the same way an artist leaves a personal mark and style and on the marble he shapes. God is also made known in a more specific way through His direct Revelation to man—a supernatural showing of His action that teaches something otherwise unknowable about God. We find this deposit of revelation in two forms, Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Revelation is essential in our life to understand our own mission and the relationship between ourselves and the whole world.

HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT GOD?

Have you ever asked yourself how we know anything about our God? You and I could have lived a simple life—we could have farmed, explored the world, developed technologies and experienced a range of lifestyles without knowing anything personal about who God is, *but we do*. Not only do we know something about Him, but we *want* to know something about Him. "The desire for God is written in the human heart." St. Augustine explains that we are made, not only by God, but for Him, "our hearts are restless until they rest in [God]."

God reveals the truth of Himself through revelation. The word "revelation" literally means that something is revealed or uncovered. God's revelation is the gradual process of revealing His nature to us, "It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal Himself and to make known the mystery of His will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature." God does not wish to make His will a secret.

Where do we find His will—*His revelation*? Through the instruments of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Scripture, the written word of God, is a record of God's revelation in history. Through it we come to know the story of our first parents, Original Sin, the covenants, the prophets, the foreshadowing of the Messiah and the coming of the Kingdom. We are made aware and reminded of the events that have happened in the past that have bearing on our world today in this collection of ancient stories, poetry and historic writings found in the Bible.

Our faith is our response to revelation. This response of belief can come in varying forms: both our own personal response and our collective response with people of like beliefs (i.e. the Church). Our personal response of belief in God's revelation implies something of a responsibility or obedience to what we believe, "Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, 'the obedience of faith'."

IS THE BIBLE ALWAYS LITERALLY TRUE?

Dead people coming to life? Walking on water? Talking donkeys? A virgin conceiving a child? These things can't be literally true, right?

That depends on what you mean by *literally*. There are many different approaches to understanding the Bible; some are better than others for many reasons. The Bible is a collection of 73 different books that differ in style, audience, content and language. For this reason, it is necessary to seek to understand more than just the words on the page.

What does this mean? This means that Scripture is true, but the written word composed centuries ago may have to be understood differently than the way you and I typically read a story. Genesis tells us that God created the world in seven days—it does not say that God created the world in seven, 24-hour periods of time

the way we understand "day" to be. "What is the literal sense of a passage is not always as obvious in the speeches and writings of the ancient authors of the East as it is in our own times...The interpreter must go back wholly in spirit to those remote centuries of the East and with the aid of history, archaeology, ethnology, and other sciences, accurately determine what modes of writing the authors of that period would be likely to use, and in fact did use."

"Therefore... it follows that the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into sacred writings for the sake of salvation. Therefore 'all Scripture is divinely inspired and has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, for reformation of manners and discipline in right living, so that the man who belongs to God may be efficient and equipped for good work of every kind.'"

This is why we ought to approach the Bible with a contextualistic method. What does this mean? It means that when we read, we should have some familiarity with the author's purpose in writing, the audience to whom he is writing, and the content of the text. This is the best way to understand the writings. The authors were not scientists, but they also weren't liars. We know their writings to be accurate in their message and it's a mistake to look to them in order to explain things the ancient human author is incapable of explaining. The same reason why you wouldn't ask a baseball umpire to officiate a basketball game, you wouldn't ask the Bible to explain astrophysics.

An example of a contextualistic approach, when it comes to the Gospels, is how the Church understands the Gospels. She believes that they are the stories of the life of Jesus Christ, that were passed on by word-of-mouth (which we call "oral tradition") from generations that originated from eye-witness accounts. This process is true of all Gospels and should be taken into account when discerning the intent and tone of the author. Each Gospel focuses on different things, different emphases, and other subtleties, while the integrity of the account remains. If you asked everyone in your math class what happened in class that day, everyone would recall the lesson but not everyone would remember the same details.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE MEAN FOR US?

Once we understand something about God, His revelation to us, and have discovered the Bible, we must then ask what it all means for us. Saints have written of the benefit of learning the Scriptures. St. Jerome, who translated the Bible as we know it today, is famous for saying that, "ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ."

The Bible contains the story of our origin, fall from grace and centuries of redemptive work culminating in the person of Jesus Christ, the sending of the Holy Spirit, and the founding of His Church. Scripture is our guide to explain our relationship with God and the basis and authority of our life together in the Church. Everything in our Church's tradition is rooted in the Sacred Scriptures. Our Mass, the Divine Liturgy, is saturated with Scriptural references, quotations, creeds, and theology found in the Bible. The Sacraments are all found in the Bible. Most importantly, our knowledge of Christ is found in the Bible—His word, His teachings, His truth has been recorded and passed on so that we may know Him today.

If you're unfamiliar with Scripture, there are many ways to get started. Sitting down and starting to read cover-to-cover is probably not the best way. Start by picking a Gospel to read. You'll find familiar stories you've heard at Mass or at Life Nights. Read one of St. Paul's letters in the New Testament and you'll hear more about the teachings of our Lord. Many Bibles have an introduction printed in them to explain about the author, audience and setting of the book. These are very helpful to understand what you're about to read.

Divino Afflante Spiritu, 35

Dei Verbum, 11

CCC 107

CCC 116

CCC 126

2 Timothy 3:16

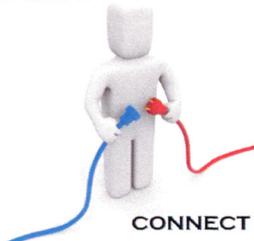
**Baptism - Matthew 28:1,
Confirmation - Acts 8:17,
Eucharist - Matthew 26:26
(among other places),
Reconciliation - John 20:23,
Marriage - Matthew 19:6,
Holy Orders - Luke 22:19 and
Romans 10:14-15,17,
Anointing of the Sick - Mark 6:13**

You can pray through the Scriptures as well. The Church calls this meditative approach *lectio divina*. This is a four-step approach involving reading, meditating, conversing with God, and contemplating His Word. You can easily begin by choosing a short story, teaching or Psalm.

The Word is alive, and it can be alive in you if you read it and experience it first hand.

**100 Things Every Catholic Teen
Should Know, p. 178**

PARENT



CONNECT



ONCE UPON A TIME

September 12th, 2010

GOAL: To introduce teenagers to the semester on Scripture by helping the teens to understand that they, even now, are characters in the story of salvation. The teens will also learn about the power of the Word and its central place in the Catholic faith.

SUMMARY OF THIS NIGHT: This life night is set to have a “story book” theme for the night. Teens will play a game that combines charades of popular children’s story book characters with a relay race. The night will then move into the talk focusing the teens on three key points:

- Scripture is the written word of God, it is a record of God’s Revelation in history.
- The Catholic Church holds the real divine presence in the proclamation of the Gospel.
- God has chosen each person to play a unique role in His story of salvation.

The teens will be given a chance to reflect on their own personal testimony and journal on how God is working in their life. These handouts will be collected and given back to the teens on the last night of the semester to let the teens see how they’ve grown. The night will end with the teens receiving a Bible with a specially marked Scripture passage for them to meditate on. The verses used will be John 1:1, Matthew 11:29-30, Matthew 4:19, John 1:14, John 10:10, John 15:16, John 17:22

KEY VERSES: CCC# 51, 101-104, 108, Jeremiah 29:11, John 1:1, 2 Timothy 3:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

- 1) Why do you think St. Jerome said, “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ”?
- 2) What role do you think God has for you in His story of salvation history for right now in your life or for the future?
- 3) What Scripture Verse did you receive tonight? Why do you think God gave you this verse?