

Saint Katharine Drexel Youth Group
Lesson Plan for June 14, 2015
Addressing the Recent Changes in Youth Group Leadership

Overview

With Ernie Helling and Ann St Ledger leaving the Core Team, the youth group will now be overseen by Brian Varnecky. The teens have expressed sadness at this loss, but also comfort that a familiar face will remain. The purpose of this lesson is to formally explain how this change in leadership will affect the youth group and to formally introduce the two new youth ministers: John and Sandy Roderick. Teens will engage in fun activities involving change prior to a large group discussion.

Objectives

Mind – Teens will practice planning and teamwork by working as team to construct straw bridges. Through formal introductions, the teens will learn about the backgrounds, motivations, and faiths of the current adult Core Team ministers.

Body – Teens will be physically engaged through running while playing tag. Teens will practice fine motor skills by constructing bridges out of plastic straws and tape.

Soul – By playing together in tag and working as teams in bridge building, the teens will develop bonds with foster friendships with their peers. By listening to the personal testimonies of the adult Core Team ministers, teens will understand that they are loved and welcomed.

Growth

This is primarily a **community-building** lesson.

Esteem – Teens will be reminded how much they are loved by the adult volunteers and empowered by the knowledge that they can make a positive contribution to the youth group's success.

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Community – Teens will work as teams during both activities (tag and bridge construction) and will bond through friendly competition. Teens will gain mutual respect by sharing their reasons for participating in youth group and by explaining their wants for and needs from this ministry.

Faith – Teens will understand that the youth group places an importance on faith formation and that it is a safe place to explore, nourish, and practice their faith as they journey towards a closer relationship with Christ.

Agenda

5:00 – 6:00: SET-UP (*prior to arrival of teens*)

In several classrooms, arrange two tables to create a 10-inch gap. Create sets of 1 roll of tape, 1 pair of scissors, and 50 drinking straws.

In the grass area, use the traffic cones to establish a playing area approximately 50' x 50'.

In the youth room, ensure that the screen is lowered and that the projector is functioning. Connect the laptop and verify that the pictures can be viewed.

6:00 – 6:30: FREE TIME – Unstructured socializing time.

6:30 – 7:00: ICEBREAKER: Zombie Tag

A large area will be delineated in the grass using traffic cones. All players must stay inside the coned area.

To begin, all players are considered “Uninfected” and are marked by a flag taped to their shoulders. An adult leader will then ‘infect’ the first wave of zombies by calling out the name of a person or group of people (such as “John” or “seniors”). The initial zombies must immediately discard their flags and begin attempting to collect tags from the uninfected humans.

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The uninfected will attempt to avoid having their flag removed by the zombies. If they lose their flag, they will also turn into a zombie. The winner is the last human to retain their flag, as well as the zombie who collects the most flags.

Uninfected humans can move in any manner they chose so long as they remain within the delineated area. Zombies can move anywhere, but cannot bend their elbows or knees.

Multiple rounds will be played as time permits.

7:00 – 7:50: ACTIVITY: Straw Bridges

10-minute for preparation; 25-minutes for building; 15-minutes for loading

Teens will be divided into teams of 3 or 4 by the adults. Each team will be given a packet of plastic drinking straws, a roll of tape, and a pair of scissors. The teams will be given approximately 25 minutes to construct a free-standing bridge to span a 10-inch gap. Each bridge will be loaded with pennies until it fails. The winner will be the most economical bridge.

Each straw used will cost 5-cents. An aesthetic bonus worth 25-cents may be awarded. Each penny held by the bridge will earn the bridge 1-cent. For example, a bridge using 50 straws ($50 \times -5 = -150$) that holds 200 pennies will earn a score of $(-150 + 200 =) 50$ points.

The official loading will take place in front of the youth room. Bring in two tables and arrange with a 10-inch gap. Provide some kind of perimeter to catch the bridge and pennies when they fall.

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7:50 – 8:45: LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

(10 minutes) Brian will begin by sharing old photos of the youth room prior to renovations. He will also share photos of himself on his first day at youth group, as well as some other older photos of previous youth group years. The purpose is to show the teens how much the youth group (and Brian!) has changed over the years.

(15 minutes) Brian will continue by discussing the recent changes in leadership and introduce the new Core Team. Brian will first re-introduce himself to the group, briefly describing how he joined the group, why he participates in this ministry, and a personal testimony about the faith. John and Sandy Roderick will then introduce themselves to the teens by sharing similar bios.

(10 minutes) The adults will then discuss their vision of youth group so that the teens will understand what we do and why we do it.

Youth Group Vision

We want to engage your minds by exploring interesting topics and offering new ways to understand your world. We hope that you will strengthen your gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding through discussions and by sharing experiences with one another.

We want to engage your bodies by including fun activities and games. We hope that your time at youth group will be stimulating, joyful, and unforgettable.

We want to engage your souls by focusing on matters that are relevant and important to you. We hope to address the troubles and concerns that one encountered during the teenage years.

We want to grow your sense of self by showing you how much you are loved by your peers, by the adults, and by God. We hope that you will never forget the honor, respect, and dignity that you deserve as a child of God—from others and from yourself.

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We want to grow this community by enabling you to make new friends and foster existing relationships in a safe and welcoming environment. We hope that you use this place to practice living a life of love with everyone who joins us.

We want to grow your faith by witnessing to the truth, the beauty, and the goodness of the Catholic Church. We hope that you will recognize what a wonderful God-given gift this faith is and that you will take it with you everywhere you go.

These goals are the same goals that the youth group has always held.

(20 minutes) To conclude, the teens will be allowed to share their feelings about the leadership change and the future of youth group. This may include personal testimonies about the benefits of youth group, a list of possible discussion topics for future lessons, questions about the group or the leaders, and so on. Discussion will continue until teens have no more to say or until closing time.

8:45 – 9:00: FREE TIME – Unstructured socializing time, if applicable.

Announcements

1. All teens are encouraged to join our Facebook group and follow our Twitter account. We will post upcoming events, photos, and other bits of news and information.
2. We will not be meeting on June 21st because it is Father's Day.
3. Our next meeting will be on June 28th.