

## Series Goal

**To Know:** The sacredness of all human life, especially your sacredness and those on the margins.

**To Do:** Take one step to 1) taking better care of yourself and 2) to reaching out to someone on the margins i.e. a loner at school, serving at a local shelter, etc.



## Schedule Options

### • Option 1 More of a Small Group Focused Approach

- (15m) Social (or Game/Activity) & Welcome
- (10m) Introductions of Youth & Opening Prayer
- (25m) Lectio Divina
- (5m) Video Reflection
- (20m) Small Group Discussion
- (5m) Closing Prayer
- (10m) Social & Wrap-Up

### • Option 2 More of a “Youth Group” Approach

- (10m) Gather, Welcome & Opening Prayer
- (15m) Activity
- (5m) Video Reflection
- (5m) Teaching
- (25m) Small Group Discussion
- (20m) Lectio Divina (in Small or Large Group)
- (10m) Closing Prayer, Announcements & Wrap-Up

# Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

## Option 1: Small Group Approach



Goal: That youth can articulate why every persons' life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death.

### Key Points:

- All human beings have dignity because we were created in the image and likeness of God.
- The Culture of Death wants to put limits on human dignity related to age, autonomy and abilities.
- True freedom is not the ability to do anything you want. It is grounded in the truth that comes from God.
- Relationship with Christ helps us to change our society into a Culture of Life.

### References:

- Genesis 1: 26-28
- Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
- Psalm 139
- Jeremiah 1: 1-10
- Mark 1: 7-11
- CCC 1700 and 2258

(15m) **Social & Welcome** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lightning, etc. Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(10m) **Introductions of Youth & Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* \_\_\_\_\_

Begin with the leader(s) introducing themselves and have each youth introduce themselves: name, grade, school, and what did you want to be when you grow up?

- *Invite a young person to lead an opening prayer.*

## Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(25m) **Lectio Divina** *Actual Run Time* \_\_\_\_\_

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1: 7-11. Select two youth to be readers. Give youth an overview of the process outlined below, then guide them through it.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.
- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
  - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
  - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
  - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
  - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
  - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

## Night #1 - Every Sacred Life

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(5m) **Night #1 - Every Sacred Life** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_  
*Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.*

(20m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_  
*Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:*

- Who do you think knows you the best? Do you trust that that person loves you? Why?
- Based on the talk/video, why do we know that God values us as human beings?
- This means we have a dignity above all other creatures from the moment of conception until natural death. How is this belief different from ways we as a society may treat some people? In what ways have you seen some people being given a different level of dignity by our world today? (You can talk about abortion, assisted suicide, the elderly, those with disabilities, racism)
- What are some ways or situations where you struggle recognizing the value and worth of some people, whether in a small or big way?
- How can your small group/church community/youth group support you in efforts to do better? How can you invite God to help you do better?
- Watch the second video of [Magalia](#) (2:45)
  - What reactions do you have watching this video?
  - What helped Magalia decide to keep her baby?
  - Do you think she is glad she decided to keep her baby?
  - How can we communicate to others the beauty of choosing life rather than abortion?

(5m) **Closing Prayer for Life & Dignity** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(10m) **Social & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity**

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(25m) **Lectio Divina** *Actual Run Time* \_\_\_\_\_

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's 2nd Reading, **1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20**. Select two youth to be readers.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
- Before hearing the passage a second time (from one of the youth readers), invite the youth to look for a word or two that strikes them from the reading. Have the youth read it a second time. Allow for a moment of silence for youth to reread on their own. Give them an opportunity to share the word that is sticking out to them.
- Have the second youth reader read the passage a third time. Afterward, instruct them to take a few minutes of silence to sit with that word asking the Lord, "Why this word? What does it mean for me?" Note: Journaling may be a helpful process for them.
- After 2-3 minutes, open time for sharing their prayer and what is striking them from the reading. If youth are having a hard time with this, you might offer the following questions for discussion:
  - Captivates: What catches your attention? What word, phrase, or image sticks out to you? Why?
  - Imagine: Is there a particular character in the story you connect with? Why?
  - Emotions: How does this passage make you feel? Does it offer comfort or peace? Uncertainty or fear? Why?
  - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
  - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

## Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(5m) **Night #2 - Your Sacred Identity** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

*Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.*

(20m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

*Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:*

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- Where does society tell us that our worth and our identity come from?
- Are there any ways to combat these lies and falling into these traps?
- What part of your identity is important and easy for you to embrace? (i.e. I am a girl, I am a boy, I am from Italian descent)
- Which key point from tonight (about you and your identity) is the hardest for you to believe? Why?
  - Your life is sacred and valuable. You are unique and unrepeatable.
  - Through your Baptism, your identity has been firmly established as a Beloved Son or Daughter of the Father; no one and nothing, not even sin, can take that away from you.
  - Jesus came for YOU, that you might have an abundant life (John 10:10).
- Is there a part of your identity that you have denied or altered in order to win the approval of others? (i.e. your faith, friendships, family)
- What thing(s) are keeping you from living the abundant life Jesus wants for you? Where is Jesus inviting you to take a step toward healing or getting help?
- How do you think Jesus sees you?
- How does understanding your own sacred identity help you to see the sacredness of every human life?
- Post-It Note Challenge: Each day this week write an affirmation to yourself on a post-it note before you go to bed and place it in your bathroom mirror. At the end of the week, your mirror should be filled with affirmations.

(5m) **Closing Prayer for Life & Dignity** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(10m) **Social & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

## Night #3 - Sacred Margins

### Option 1: Small Group Approach



Goal: That youth can see the sacred in the faces of the marginalized and can begin reaching out to someone marginalized in their community.

#### Key Points:

- God calls the most unlikely people to do his will. God equips those he calls.
- As part of the Body of Christ, we are called to work together with ALL of our brothers and sisters to build the kingdom of God here on earth.
- It is our responsibility as disciples to help the marginalized feel the love of God and answer their call as part of the Body of Christ.

#### References:

- Mark 1: 14-20
- Exodus 4
- 1 Samuel 16-17
- Acts 9: 1-31
- Luke 1: 26-38
- Luke 22: 54-62
- 2 Corinthians 9: 8
- 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31
- 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26
- CCC 782 - 791
- Fratelli Tutti 18



(15m) **Social & Welcome** *Actual Run Time* (i.e. 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_

Gather your young people into space. Set the environment with music, lighting, etc. Use the time to engage them in conversation - How are they doing?

(10m) **Introductions of Youth & Opening Prayer** *Actual Run Time* \_\_\_\_\_

Begin with the leader(s) introducing themselves and have each youth introduce themselves: name, grade, school, and what did you want to be when you grow up?

- *Invite a young person to lead an opening prayer.*

**Night #3 - Sacred Margins**

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(25m) **Lectio Divina** *Actual Run Time* \_\_\_\_\_

Have youth open their Bibles to Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1: 7-11. Select two youth to be readers. Give youth an overview of the process outlined below, then guide them through it.

- Before hearing the reading the first time, invite the youth to just hear the story. Let it wash over them. The Adult Leader reads the passage one time through. Ask youth if they have any questions about the reading? Something doesn't make sense, or they don't know a word, etc.
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  - Reveals: What about this passage reveals to you who Jesus is or what He desires for you?
  - Challenged & Called: What about this passage challenges you? What is Jesus calling you to do? How can you apply this passage to your life?

## Night #3 - Sacred Margins

Option 1: Small Group Approach

(5m) **Night #3 - Sacred Margins** (Video Reflection) Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

*Play tonight's brief video (or offer a talk in its place that emphasizes the content from the video) to set the theme connecting the reading and small group discussion.*

(20m) **Small Group Discussion** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

*Begin in prayer, then discuss the following:*

- What struck you from the video? Why?
- God calls the most unlikely. He calls the lowly, like these fishermen. Jesus called them to follow and be His disciples. Think of a person whose life didn't seem to have much potential, and what they've done with their life because of God's call. Share.
- Read these words from Pope Francis' new encyclical Fratelli Tutti:
 

“Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, “persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, ‘not yet useful’ – like the unborn, or ‘no longer needed’ – like the elderly.”
- What human characteristics do we value as a society?
- What human characteristics make a person “less valuable” to our world?
- Who are some of the people in your parish/school/community that are marginalized and treated as “less worthy?”
- When we people are not valued or included, how does that affect the Body of Christ?
- Jesus emplores us through His teaching of the Great Commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Last week we spent time focusing on our Sacred Self. How can we show others who are marginalized that they too are sacred and have an important role to play in creating God's kingdom?
- Reach Out Challenge: Take time this week to reach out to three people who are marginalized to show them God's love.

(5m) **Closing Prayer for Life & Dignity** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(10m) **Social & Wrap-Up** Actual Run Time \_\_\_\_\_