

Lesson Plan for Youth on the New Evangelization

Goal: To challenge young people to extend their role as evangelists to people in their heart, life, and world.

Objectives:

- To call on the Holy Spirit to help us live up to our role as evangelists
- To recognize who we need to reach out to within our community
- To identify concrete ways to reach out to those whom we need to evangelize

Resources Needed:

Evangelization Worksheet

Yellow, green, and blue markers

Butcher paper

CD player and words to song, "Open My Eyes" by Jesse Manibusan

Copies of skit "3 Dollars Worth of God"

2 volunteers to read skit

Opening Prayer:

Leader: O, God of Good News, through the ministry of your Son Jesus, you showed us how to love others both in words and in actions.

Send us your Spirit, so we are encouraged to continue the mission your Son gave us to evangelize.

Open our eyes so that we may see others with charity,

Open our ears so that we may hear the needs of your people with compassion,

Open our heart, so that we may act in the world as loving disciples of you.

Together let us sing, "Open my eyes Lord."

[Play song at this time]

Opening Skit: "3 Dollars Worth of God"

[Follow-up skit with discussion questions]

Discussion Questions:

- What, in your opinion, is the message of this skit?
- Why would someone settle for \$3 worth of God?
- What might purchasing more than \$3 of God look like?

Group Activity

Directions:

This activity will involve personal reflection, small group dialogue, and large group discussion. The leader might want to have small groups pre-selected.

Items to have: Evangelization work-sheet, yellow, green, and blue markers, and butcher paper.

Filling out the Evangelization Worksheet (10-15 min.)

Hand out one activity sheet to each person, along with a yellow, green, and blue marker. In the center circle each person will write their name.

In the hearts they will write the names of people whom they are close to and are in their "heart." (Examples would be parents, siblings, grandparents, significant other, best-friend, etc.)

Next, in the L-shaped figure, the names or name of a group of people with whom the young person interacts with on a fairly regular basis will be written. These should be people in their “Life” with whom they have a working relationship based on school, work, or extra-curricular activities.

Lastly, in the pictures of the earth, they will write the names of a group of people or specific persons who are in their “world”. These people could be people who they know, have come across, and have noticed, but with whom they do not have any relationship with aside from knowing who they are and seeing them in passing. Examples would be teens who hang out by themselves and are excluded, the homeless person who always is seen at the same place, the all-star athlete at school, immigrant laborers who might work in the neighborhood, etc.)

Once the figures are filled with names, lines will be traced and drawn between the figures and their name. The colors represent:

- Yellow = Those with whom I talk about my relationship with God
- Green = Those with whom I might be able to talk about my relationship with God.
- Blue = Those with whom it would be difficult to talk about my relationship with God.

Small group discussion (15 min.)

Divide into small groups and give a piece of butcher paper to each group. The young people will discuss their charts and will share why they assigned different colors to different people.

After the young people each share two or three examples, they will brainstorm concrete ways in which they might be able to give the people in their heart, life, and world , who have green and blue lines, yellow lines.

Butcher paper: On top of the piece of butcher paper each group will write “How to increase the yellow” or “How can we concretely improve how we evangelize?” and will divide the paper into three columns with the sub-headings “heart”, “life”, and “world”. Placed under each column will be the concrete ways they will turn green and blue lines into yellow lines.

Large group discussion:

Once each group has completed the activity, they will share with one another their identified ways to “increase the yellow”. Each group should have the opportunity to present their work. Everyone present should feel free to ask follow up questions.

Once all of the groups have shared their work, the entire community will re-convene to end the session in prayer.

“Reaching Out”

Closing Prayer

[Before prayer, designate half of the room to be Side A and the other half to take Side B]

Side A:

O, God of Good News through your Son Jesus, you showed us how to proclaim the good news of your love. Send us your Spirit, so we are encouraged to share our faith with those in our heart, in our lives, and in our world. Help us to grow in our awareness of your presence in our lives, so that we might better share our love of you with others.

Side B:

May we be true heralds of your Good News. May our works on behalf of all people who live their lives in the margins of our world, our schools, and our communities be a sign of your love for all people. Strengthen us as we live the call to evangelize.

All:

We ask that you allow us to be open to opportunities that may come our way to do your will. Give us the strength to say “Yes” like Mary and fully commit ourselves to you. In this way, we are able to bring your light to all those we may encounter.

Leader:

We place this all, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, as we pray...

All: Hail Mary...

Evangelization Worksheet

