

Lesson Plan for Adult Volunteers on the New Evangelization

Goal: To equip adult volunteers to be better evangelizers.

Objectives:

- To call upon the Holy Spirit to help us live up to our mission
- To take an evangelization “self assessment” so as to enhance the evangelization we do in our lives
- To partake in a faith-sharing experience and depict a “faith journey”

Resources Needed:

- CD player and words to song, “Open My Eyes” by Jesse Manibusan
- Copies of skit “Three Dollars Worth of God”
- 2 volunteers to read skit
- Copies of Evangelization Self-Assessment
- “Drawing Your Faith Journey” Activity Sheet
- Paper for participant to draw on
- Pen or pencil
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers (optional)

Opening Prayer:

Leader:

O, God of Good News through the ministry of your Son Jesus, you showed us how to proclaim the good news of salvation both in words and in actions. Send us your Spirit, so we are encouraged to continue the mission your Son gave us to evangelize.

Together let us sing, “Open my eyes Lord.”

Opening Skit: “Three Dollars Worth of God”

Discussion Questions:

- Do I buy God in small doses?
- Do I sell God in small doses?
- What is the largest dose of God I’ve ever sold?

Group Activity:

Directions:

Hand out the Evangelization Self-Assessment and ask each participant to candidly fill it out. When everyone has completed it, the facilitator will lead the group in discussing the questionnaire.

For a couple of minutes, have the participants expand upon one or two of their own responses.

Follow-up questions to Evangelization Self-Assessment:

For a 1-2 on the scale: Why would it be difficult for you to be an evangelist in that situation?

For a 3-4 on the scale: What would help you become a better evangelist in that situation?

For a 5 on the scale: What helped you to be an evangelist in that situation?

Evangelization Self-Assessment

Answer the following questions on a scale of 1-5. (1 = not at all, 5 = frequently)

1. Are you comfortable sharing your faith with family?
Why or why not? 1 2 3 4 5
2. Are you comfortable sharing your faith with friends?
Why or why not? 1 2 3 4 5
3. Are you comfortable sharing your faith with people at
work? Why or why not? 1 2 3 4 5
4. Have you shared your journey of faith with those with
whom you are most intimate? 1 2 3 4 5
5. In times of celebration in your life and in the life of
others, do you remember to turn to God in gratitude? 1 2 3 4 5
6. In times of sadness, do you remember to turn to God in
consolation? 1 2 3 4 5
7. Other than your immediate family, do you invite people to
come to Mass with you? 1 2 3 4 5
8. Are you willing and able to explain why Mass is
important to Catholics? 1 2 3 4 5
9. Do you attempt to clarify misconceptions about
Catholicism in conversation? 1 2 3 4 5
10. Are you able to talk about how you see God's love in
your life with someone who has become dormant in their
faith? 1 2 3 4 5
11. How willing would you be to extend an invitation to
neighbors, members of other ethnic communities, and
others who might not belong to a faith community, to join
you at a parish retreat, picnic, or festival? 1 2 3 4 5
12. Do people in your work and outside of the parish context
know you are a practicing Catholic? 1 2 3 4 5

Faith Sharing tips:

(Provided by Division of Evangelization and Catechesis, Coordinator Sharon Bogusz)

- Faith-sharing is sacred ground. It is also confidential.
- Remember that it is most important to listen and not to make an attempt “to fix” what the person is sharing.
- Use phrases such as “I am hearing you say...” to clarify your understanding of what is being said.
- Be affirming.
- To encourage others to share their faith, we must be willing to begin by sharing our own story.

Faith-sharing process

Setting:

1. Have coffee or other beverages and refreshments for hospitality.
2. Be ready to offer several places where individuals and pairs can break into for more individualized work.

Scripture:

Psalm 139:1-16 read aloud slowly and intentionally

For the leader. A psalm of David. O LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
you know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar.

My travels and my rest you mark; with all my ways you are familiar.

Even before a word is on my tongue, LORD, you know it all.

Behind and before you encircle me and rest your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is beyond me, far too lofty for me to reach.

Where can I hide from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee?

If I ascend to the heavens, you are there; if I lie down in Sheol, you are there too.

If I fly with the wings of dawn and alight beyond the sea,

Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely darkness shall hide me, and night shall be my light" --

Darkness is not dark for you, and night shines as the day. Darkness and light are but one.

You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew;

my bones were not hidden from you, When I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be.

Reflection/Discussion:

As seen in Psalm 139, God has been intimately engaged in all of our existence. When we take a deeper look at our life there is a unique story of our experience and awareness of God that brings us to this very instance.

Individually at first and then as a large group what images of the psalm stand out. Why?

What implications does this awareness of God have on my ministry in evangelization?

Activity:

Hand out “Drawing Your Faith Journey” sheet, paper, pen or pencil, colored pencils, crayons or markers.

Introduction to activity:

By looking at your faith journey through the different stages of life--childhood, youth, and adulthood--you can recognize God’s presence through people, events, and circumstances.

The following activity provides an opportunity to reflect on God’s constant, loving, and active presence in our lives.

[Ask participants to move on to “Drawing Your Faith Journey” page.]

Drawing Your Faith Journey

Adapted from Anne Shore, Assumption University

<http://www.assumptionu.ca/Course/Autobiography.pdf>

Your faith journey is God’s action in your life. Your drawing of your faith journey should tell a story. It should contain symbols or pictures of God’s action in your life through the diversity of life’s experiences, starting with your childhood, continuing to your youth until where you are today.

In depicting the different points of reference in your faith journey, you will be able to use symbols that depict particular circumstance or events in your life.

Use the following reflection guide below to help you in this process:

1. LIFE OVERVIEW

Your life overview begins at birth and continues until today. You are looking at your relationship with Jesus Christ, with God and with a gathered faith community (the church) as well as how you live it out. The intention is for you to reflect on key moments in the different stages.

A. EARLY CHILDHOOD

- You can begin with your parents’ religious background and general spiritual approaches. Your early life might include messages that were communicated to you; early experiences that had impact on your subsequent spiritual journey; even if religion was not part of your upbringing, there may have been spiritual influences from either parent – what were those influences?
- You can then explore your early experiences with Catholicism or, if you are a convert, with the faith tradition of your parents. Think about how you were initiated and

integrated into a religious community (parish); particular events that may have impacted you; persons who influenced you spiritually. Did Catholic school play any role in these years? The local parish? How did you experience God in these years?

- How did you come to know Jesus? Was Jesus part of your life in your home – through family prayer, talking about Jesus, opportunities for retreat?

B. LIFE AS A TEEN, YOUNG ADULT, ADULT

- You can then mention your teen, young adult and then adult years. What connections do you see between significant people, events, experiences, and ways you experienced God as active in your life. What role, if any, did Catholic school play in your life? The local parish? How did you continue to experience God in your life? How did you come to know and experience Jesus?
- You can explore your experiences with your Catholic faith; your understanding of your relationship with Christ; commitments you have made as a result of your experiences; any sense of Christian vocation which has emerged; ways that you have matured in your spiritual life and patterns in your religious / faith life. How do you see yourself within a parish community: Sunday Eucharist, church teachings, parish life?

Once all participants have been able to depict their journey of faith, the group can reconvene to share their stories in pairs or to the entire group.

The closing prayer concludes this session.

Closing Prayer

Scripture

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (28:16-20)

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Word of the Lord.

Bi-lingual Intercessions

Leader:

The Lord invites us to seek new life in Christ; united today we place our trust in his care.

[El Señor nos invita a buscar una nueva vida en el; unidos ponemos nuestra confianza en el.]

To the intercessions, please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

[A las intercesiones respondemos: Señor, escucha nuestra oración.]

1. For the Holy Church, for the Pope, the Bishops and priests, women religious, and the laity, that they may guide the people of God with wisdom and love, we pray to the Lord...
[Por la Santa Iglesia, por el Papa, los obispos y sacerdotes, las religiosas, y todos los laicos, que todos podamos guiar al pueblo de Dios en sabiduría y amor, oremos al Señor...]

2. Por los pobres, los marginados, los inmigrantes, los que sufren discriminación, los ancianos y los enfermos. Para que encuentren consuelo y ayuda en la comunidad de fe, oremos al Señor...
[For the poor, the marginalized, the immigrant, those that suffer discrimination, the elderly and the sick. So that they find counsel and aid in our community of faith, we pray to the Lord...]
3. For the Young Church, its young people, its coordinators, volunteers, and parents, that we may fulfill our call to spread the good news of the Gospel helping to build a society of justice and prosperity for all, we pray to the Lord...
[Por la Iglesia Joven, sus coordinadores, voluntarios, y padres de familia, que podamos cumplir nuestro llamado a dispersar la buena nueva del Evangelio y poder ayudar a construir una sociedad de justicia y prosperidad, oremos al Señor...]
4. Por nuestros jóvenes, por los que nunca han escuchado la buena nueva de Jesús, y por los jóvenes que buscan volver a prender su entusiasmo por su fe en Jesús, para que inspirados por la convicción en el Evangelio contribuyamos a su conversión roguemos al Señor...
[For our young people, for those that have never heard the good news of Jesus, and for those young people who seek to rekindle their enthusiasm for their faith in Jesus, that inspired by our conviction in the Gospel we may contribute to their conversion, we pray to the Lord...]
5. For this parish community, so that it may always be a sign of unity and charity to the world, we pray to the Lord...
[Por esta comunidad parroquial, para que podamos ser siempre un signo de unidad y caridad al mundo, oremos al Señor...]
6. Por todos los aquí reunidos, para que nuestras acciones reflejen la misericordia y caridad de Cristo, roguemos al Señor...
[For all of us that are gathered here today, that our actions may reflect Christ's mercy and charity.]

Leader: God of all kindness and mercy, hear the prayers that we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All/Todos: Amen

Leader: Together let us pray the Prayer of an Evangelizer...

Prayer of an Evangelizer

Lord God, who cares about each and every one of us in the world, I invite you to live in me today, to move in my actions and speak in my words.

Through Jesus your Word made flesh, you allow me once again the privilege and the power of making real your dream that all may be one and find life in your name.

Touch me with your Spirit today so I may have your life in my life, your Word in my mouth, and courage to move in your world, loving your people as my people.

Enfold me in your grace to protect me from my fears, my pride, and my desire to control others. Make me a blessing, not a burden, to those I meet today, and a faithful witness to your Good News. Here I am; Lord, send me!

We ask this in your name,

Amen.

(Prayer of an Evangelizer adapted from http://www.lasallianresources.org/prayers_for_everyday.htm)