

## Youth Night

### ***The Incarnation and Life of Christ***

#### **Purpose of the Night**

This youth gathering is focused all around the person of Jesus Christ. Christ, as we know, is the primary figure in all of Scripture. Yet so often, Jesus is misinterpreted and seen as someone He is not. The world today has painted almost a countless number of images on who Jesus is. However, Sacred Scripture is very clear on who Jesus is and this night is designed to deliver that simple message.

#### **Environment**

For this youth night, there will be four separate environments for the five separate areas that the teaching will be taking place in. For the first area, set up a life size manger scene. If you do not have one, try and borrow one from someone who may use it as a Christmas decoration or the parish should have one as well. For the third area, place a small boat and net if possible. For the third area, have it very low lit with simply a wooden cross and some candles. For the final are, go to a very well lit room and have a lot of flowers

#### **Preparation**

##### Snacks/fellowship time (20 minutes)

Before diving into the topic, have snacks or even a meal available for the youth as they arrive. Allow them time to socialize with their friends as well as to meet any new people. Be sure to have yourself as well as any core team mingle among the kids and reach out especially to anyone who may be new. This time would also be a good time for any announcements as well as announcing any birthdays.

##### Game – Pull up (15 minutes)

Everyone forms a giant circle and sits down. 7 people (4 girls/3 boys) are chosen to stand in the middle. When the music begins, people in the middle must find a person of the opposite gender who is sitting. They will reach down and pull them up. The new person standing must do the same thing. When the music stops everyone must freeze. The gender that has the least amount of people standing in the middle gets a point

### Introduction of the Topic (5 minutes)

Transition the youth into the main space to begin the night. The youth minister will begin by introducing the topic of the night.

## **Proclamation**

Proclamation verse: "But who do you say that I am?"- Matthew 16:15

### Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

#### Reading (Matthew 16:13-20)

#### *A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

*When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.*

#### Prayer

*Heavenly Father,*

*We come before you this day in thanksgiving for the gift of Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Open our hearts this day to the example of Jesus and help us to come to a better understanding of who He truly is and how we can enter into a better relationship with Him. We ask this in your name.*

*Amen.*

(Optional) If you have a musician who can begin the night with a praise and worship song, that could be used as the opening prayer

## **Explanation**

### Video – “Who is Jesus?”

This video is a Frontline video in which the interviewer asks a number of people on the street who Jesus is to them. The answers vary greatly with a number of answers very contradictory to our faith. This video can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMzKHFnd29E>.

### Processing the video (10 minutes)

The video contains a number of thoughts and opinions on who Jesus is. Give the teens a couple minutes to respond to the video. Get their reaction to the answers given. Then take another minute or two to pose the same question to them of “Who is Jesus?”

After their responses, introduce the topic of Jesus and take a minute or two to explain His importance in Scripture and in our lives and lead it into the next part of the night.

## **Application**

### *Journey through the Life of Jesus (45 minutes)*

For this next part of the night, you will need to set up 4 separate areas (see environment for each area). Each area will represent a time in the life of Jesus. It will start at His birth, go to the calling of the first disciples, arrive at His passion and death, and conclude with His resurrection. For each area, select a core member who will dress up as a different character in Scripture and give a brief (5-7 minutes) eye witness account to how they experienced Jesus. The group will travel to each station as they journey through the life of Jesus.

For specifics on who the characters are and a few bullet points on what they should talk about, see below:

### **The Birth of Jesus: One of the Magi** (See Mt. 2)

*Reaction upon learning about and seeing the star*

*What it was like to encounter Jesus (focus on the importance of the Incarnation)*

*Encounter with King Herod*

### **Call of the First Disciples: Simon Peter** (See Mt. 4:18-22, as well as any other accounts of miracles or healings)

*What it was like to first meet Jesus and be called by Him*

*Account on witnessing to miracles and healings*

*What it was like spending daily life with Him, the Last Supper*

### **The Passion and Death of Jesus: A Roman Centurion** (John 18-19, Mt. 26-27)

*Arrest of Jesus in the Garden*

*Trial before Pilate, scourging at the pillar  
Carrying of the cross  
Death of Jesus on the cross*

**Resurrection: Cleopas (one of the two on the road to Emmaus)** (See Luke 24)

*What it was like to know that Jesus had died  
Recount the encounter on the road to Emmaus  
Reaction to recognizing Jesus*

Following the journey, gather everyone back into the main space and spend a minute or two processing the journey.

Video – “Jesus Christ, the Bridge to Life”

This video can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=we5MbpRc3mY>

## **Celebration**

Recap of the night and closing prayer (10 minutes)

Gather everyone into the church or a prayerful area and spend a few minutes recapping the night and wrapping up by explaining the importance of Jesus, not only in Scripture, but in our own lives. Take a few minutes to offer up any intentions and close with and Our Father.