

# Youth Night

## The Reality and Effects of Sin

### **Purpose of the Night**

This meeting is designed to provide an overview of the reality of sin and its effect in our life. It will also show the reality of God's grace and the effects grace can have on us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Supplies**

Paper  
Pens  
Rice paper (dissolvable paper)

### **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 – “Write, Draw, Write”**

Divide the group into small groups of 6-12. Create a stack of small pieces of paper for each person. Each stack should have the same number of pieces of paper as people who are playing. To begin the game, have each person write a word or short phrase on their first piece of paper. Do not have anyone share who is writing. Once everyone is finished, each person will pass their stack of paper to the person on the right. Each person will now have a new stack of paper. With the new stack have each person read the word or phrase to themselves and then place the first piece of paper at the back of the stack. On the next piece of paper, each person will draw a picture describing the word or phrase. Pass to the right and do the same thing, only this time, write a new word or phrase describing the picture. Keep repeating these steps until the stacks have gone all the way around and each person has their original stack. Have each person share the contents of the stack.

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

(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

Reading (Romans 6:20-23)

*A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans*

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. But what profit did you get then from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit that you have leads to

sanctification, and its end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Video – “SLAP”** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x37THN5DwB8>

*This video is a humorous video to ease into the night on a lighter note. It shows extreme examples on how we can hold each other accountable for sinful choices.*

**Preparation**(The proclamation is a key word, sentence, phrase, quote, or Scripture verse that sums up the message for the session. This should be short, easy to remember, and something that is repeated throughout the talk and the session. Below is a suggestion for the session 1 proclamation.)

**Proclamation verse**

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death”

## **Explanation**

**Teaching** (15-20 minutes)

*Choose a speaker to talk to your group about this topic and its importance in our lives. The speaker can be the youth minister, a core member, a parish priest or deacon, a guest speaker, or anyone who you feel may be qualified to speak on the topic. You can use the outline below to provide some thoughts for this talk.*

### **Where does sin come from?**

- Genesis 3 – Story of the Fall of Man
- Sin comes as a result of man’s choice to turn away from God and give into temptation.
- God does not create evil or sin. Rather, sin is a choice on the part of man where we take a good that God has given us and reject it

### **How does sin hurt us as well as others?**

- CCC 1849 – “Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. It has been defined as "an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law."
- Sin is an offense against God and through sin we are separated from God. God is the source of all good so when we are separated from Him, we are deprived of true goodness
  - Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death”
- Sin is also an offense against our neighbor either directly or indirectly.

### **How can God heal us of sin?**

- Though we are separated from God through Sin, we are redeemed through Christ and have the opportunity to repent and turn to Him to receive eternal life
  - Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus the Lord.”

### ***Teen Witness***

*Invite one of your teens to give a short witness on sin and redemption in their own lives, specifically through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

## **Application**

### ***Examination of Conscience***

*Go to the Church and invite the teens to a time of reflection and examination. Give them an examination of conscience for teen and ask them to take a few minutes going through it and reflect on it according to their own life.*

*When entering the Church, pass out pens and rice paper (dissolvable paper). As the teens go through their examination, invite them to write down the sins that come to mind. Let them know that the paper is just for them and will not be collected.*

### ***Sacrament of Reconciliation***

If possible, offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the rest of the meeting. Have soft music playing and Eucharistic Adoration if possible. Invite the teens to go to the Sacrament and bring their paper in with them to help during confession. Set up a large bowl of water in front of the altar. After going to confession, invite the teens to approach the bowl and place their paper in. This will provide a good visual for them of their sin dissolving symbolizing forgiveness and the effects of the grace of Reconciliation.

## **Celebration**

After everyone has had a chance to go to confession, take a minute or two to provide some closing thoughts to wrap up the night and Close in Prayer in the church.

### **References/Resources**

- Scripture
  - o Genesis 3
  - o John 3:5
  - o Romans 3:23, 5:12-20
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
  - o 396-406
  - o 1849-1861
- YouCat
  - o 1, 8, 66-67, 70-71, 76, 87, 98, 221, 224-239, 288, 312-320, 337