

Youth Night

The Story of Salvation

Purpose of the Night

This youth gathering is designed to be an introduction to and an overview of Sacred Scripture. The goal of the gathering is to introduce the topic of Scripture by providing a simple outline of the Story of Salvation. The Story of Salvation is the story of how we as human beings fell through original sin, but how God had an intricate plan in slowly revealing Himself, showing us His love, and ultimately sending us His Son to save us and leave us the Church.

Supplies needed

Poster boards
markers

Environment

The environment for this night should give the youth a visual depiction of the story of Salvation. At the front of the room, place Bible on stand with candles around it. Hang a number of signs around the room with key Bible verses. The rest of environment will gradually be added on to as youth will create a timeline of Salvation History in their small groups and hang their sign around the room.

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 – “In Order” (5-10 minutes)

To begin the gathering, break the youth up into small groups. Once in small groups they will play a game called “In Order”. Throughout a series of rounds each small group will be given a certain way in which they must get in order. The group to successfully get in order first gets a point. The group with the most points at the end wins.

- Orders include:

- Shortest to tallest
- Youngest to oldest
- Birthdates excluding years – January to December (year does not matter)
- Lightest hair to darkest hair
- Lightest eyes to darkest eyes
- Lightest shirt to darkest shirt
- Lightest shoes to darkest shoes
- Etc.

Proclamation

Proclamation Verse: John 5:24 – “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.”

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Once the game ends, gather the group into the main space to begin the night with an opening prayer. Begin with this reading from John 5:19-24 followed by the prayer:

Reading

A Reading from the Gospel According to John

Jesus answered and said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also. For the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes. Nor does the Father judge anyone, but he has given all judgment to his Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.

Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
We come before you this day and ask that you reveal Yourself to us in Your Word. Open our hearts that we may encounter You in all that we do. Open our ears to hear this Word and to be inspired to allow the Word to take root in our lives. We ask this in Your most Holy 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

Introduction of the Topic (5 minutes)

The youth minister will begin by introducing the topic of the Story of Salvation. Start by processing the opening game by explaining order and chronology and how it relates to stories. Transition by explaining what the Story of Salvation is and how it is relevant for our lives. After this brief introduction, break the youth into small groups.

Explanation/Application

Telling the Story of Salvation

Planning out the Story (20 minutes)

The explanation for this night will be different than usual as it will be combined with the application. Divide into Small Groups. Each group will receive a different part in the Story of Salvation. The small group leader will give a brief teaching/reflection to their small group on their portion of the story. Below are the different parts and where they are found in Scripture.

Creation – Genesis 3

- The Fall and God's Covenant with Adam
- Noah – Genesis 6:5-9:17
- Abraham – Genesis 15
- Moses – Exodus 2-20
- David
- Prophets
- Mary's "Yes" and the Incarnation – Luke 1-2
- Jesus' life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection – All 4 Gospels
- Birth of the Church at Pentecost with the Apostles – Acts of the Apostles

If there are not enough groups to do all the parts then combine parts. Examples of combinations can include:

- 6 Groups
 - The Fall and God's Covenant with Adam
 - Noah/Abraham
 - Moses/David/Prophets
 - Mary
 - Jesus' life, Passion, Death and Resurrection
 - Birth of the Church at Pentecost with the Apostles
- 4 groups

- The Fall and God's Covenant with Adam/Noah/Abraham
- Moses/David/Prophets
- Mary/Jesus' life, Passion, Death and Resurrection
- Birth of the Church at Pentecost with the Apostles

Each group will then create an illustration on poster board of their portion and a brief skit (1-2 minutes) that tells their part of the story.

Telling the Story (15 minutes)

Groups will come back together and present the story as a whole. Have each group present in order and as each group presents, hang their poster around the room in order.

Once all groups have presented, the youth minister should recap the story as a whole and wrap up the activity by explaining why this story is so great and why it is so important for our lives. At this point, explain that the night will be wrapping up and prepare the youth to enter into the time of prayer that will be at the end.

Celebration

Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

If possible, transition the group into a separate space to close out the night. The ideal location would be in the church if available. Have core team set up the space ahead of time by dimming the lights and simply placing an open Bible at the front surrounded by candles. Invite the youth to quietly make their way in and have a seat. The youth minister should take a minute to prayerfully recap the whole night. After the recap, take some time to enter into some silence and allow the youth to voice any intentions they have. Close with a Hail Mary.