

ROYAL DESCENT

An Edge Night on Jesus' Early and Hidden Life

EDGE NIGHT OVERVIEW

GOAL

The goal of the Edge Night is to help the youth understand the importance of the Incarnation and how we can follow the example of Mary's Fiat.

SUMMARY

The Edge Night Gather begins with a funny video and fun game where the youth will be challenged to unwrap a Christmas present. The Proclaim will discuss The Annunciation, Jesus' life as a child, and a challenge to follow His example as well as Mary's. After the teaching, another video will lead into a small group discussion about why God chose to become one of us. The Edge Night ends with a reflection on Mary's Fiat which allows the youth to reflect on trusting in God's will for their lives.

MAIN IDEAS

- The Annunciation and Mary's "yes" to God's will in her life is an example for all of us.
- Jesus experienced life as a man by entering into the world as a baby through the Incarnation and relied on His family to take care of Him.
- It is important for us to look to Jesus and Mary as our examples of how to be obedient to both God and our parents.

ENVIRONMENT

Carry over the throne room environment from the previous Edge Night. Only this time remove the throne chair and put one piece of simple burlap cloth over the royal fabrics and a life size manger/creche on top of the burlap so that it is now in the place of the throne chair.



MEDIA

Edge Video Support August 2017: "Apostle Snap Story: Part I" (lifeteen.com)
Edge Video Support August 2017: "Grandpa's Pet ... Peeve" (lifeteen.com)
Edge Video Support August 2017: "Shopping for Jesus" (lifeteen.com)



SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38, 2:40-52; John 1:1, 14

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EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Snap Story (5 min)

As the youth are walking in, play the "Apostle Snap Story: Part I" from the *Media Suggestions*.

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth, introduce any youth who are there for the first time, and begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the topic of the Edge Night using the following as an example:

Today at Edge we are going to learn more about the Incarnation, which is the event where Jesus came into this world as a man. The Incarnation begins with Mary saying, "yes" to God and His plan for her to become the Mother of God. Jesus, as the Son of God, is of royal descent, but He was born into a poor and humble family and grew up in a household with two parents and was cared for by them. We have a lot to learn from these stories and both Mary and Jesus and their obedience.

Video: Shopping for Jesus (5 min)

Play the video "Shopping for Jesus" from the *Media Suggestions*.

Pass the Christmas Gift (10 min)

This game is played in groups of 10-15 youth.

1. Prior to the Edge Night, wrap up a small gift (e.g.: a box of chocolate, an Edge toy, a \$5 gift card), then wrap the present with multiple layers of wrapping paper (up to 10 layers). In each layer add a smaller gift such as a lollypop, bouncy ball, or small candy.
2. Instruct the youth to sit in a circle facing each other.
3. Give each group a wrapped present.
4. This game is played similar to Hot Potato; when the music starts the youth start passing the present. When the music stops, whoever is holding the present unwraps one layer of wrapping paper and keeps the small gift that was in that layer.
5. This continues until the last layer of wrapping paper is unwrapped and the youth who has the gift at the end gets to keep whatever larger gift was wrapped inside.



SUGGESTIONS

If you have a smaller Edge program, stay in one big group to play the game. You can wrap the main gift up to 20 or 25 times with smaller gifts within the layers.



STEP IT UP

Include a written challenge with each small gift that the person unwrapping the layer must complete. The challenge can be something the person must do in front of the group or something they share (e.g.: sing a song to the group, tell the group about the best gift you've ever received, laugh as loud as you can, etc.).

PROCLAIM

“Royal Descent” Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 32 to 34.

BREAK

Video: Grandpa’s Pet ... Peeve (5 min)

Play the video “Grandpa’s Pet ... Peeve” from the *Media Suggestions*.

Small Group Questions (15 min)

Break the youth into their small groups and use the following questions to lead a discussion:

- Have you ever been lost and had your parents worry about you? Explain.
- What do you think Jesus was like at your age?
- Do you think Jesus was obedient to His parents? Why? What does this teach us?
- In what ways can you be obedient to your parents?
- Why do you think God sent His only son, Jesus, to live among us?
- What stood out to you the most from the video? Why?

8th Grade Adaptation (15 min)

Use the following questions for more challenging discussion for 8th grade youth:

- Who in your life desires what is best for you? Why do you think they desire good things for you?
- Do you trust these people? Do you agree with them in what is best for you? Why or why not?
- When Mary said, “yes” to God her life changed forever. How do you think she found the courage to say, “yes”?
- How can we learn from Mary’s obedience to God?
- Is it difficult for you to trust that God wants what is best for you? Why or why not?
- What stood out to you the most from the video? Why?

Mary's Fiat Activity (20 min)

Gather the youth back to the main meeting space and invite them to sit in an area that is free of distractions. Dim the lights to create a prayerful environment as the Core Team passes out "Mary's Fiat" handout found on the *August 2017 Edge USB* or online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2017*. Introduce the prayer time using the following as an example:

Mary is a beautiful example of what it means to trust in the will of God. She was only a few years older than you are now, and she was chosen to bring our Savior into this world. The angel Gabriel appeared to her to let her know that through the Holy Spirit she would conceive and bear a Son named Jesus. Mary's answer to this proclamation was, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). When Mary said, "yes" to God she responded with her whole being and gives her whole life over to the plan of God. She is our great example of trust in God. As our mother and the Mother of Church, she can also pray for us in our time of need so that when God calls us we can also respond with "yes." (CCC 2617-2619)

Mary's "yes" to God's plan and will was her Fiat. What is God calling you to say, "yes" to in your life? What is your answer? Take some time to quietly pray through the journaling sheet you have in front of you and answer those questions.

Play some music and give the youth some time to reflect and journal. Allow enough time for them to go through the questions. When it is time to bring the group back together, close with a prayer of thanksgiving for Mary's Fiat and the Incarnation of Jesus. End the prayer time together with a Hail Mary.



SUGGESTIONS

If there are youth that have never journaled, explain that this is another form of prayer. It is a written conversation between them and God.



STEP IT UP

Invite your music minister to play some worship music while the youth are journaling and have the Core Team available throughout the room to pray with the youth during this time.

Notes: _____

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TEACHING GUIDE

GETTING STARTED

To cover the basic information follow along and craft the talk based off of the bullet points. If your youth are ready to take it deeper, start incorporating a few of the Going Deeper call out boxes (like the one below) by picking the ones your youth would relate to the most.



GOING DEEPER

Check inside these boxes for tips and ideas on how to take your youth a little deeper with the Proclaim.

THE ANNUNCIATION

- *Project an image of the Annunciation.*
- God's plans for Mary's life began when she was conceived and born without sin. He was preparing her to be the woman that would bring Jesus, our Savior, into this world. She was the perfect vessel, and she is known as the Immaculate Conception. (CCC 488-493)
- When Mary was a teenager and betrothed to Joseph, the archangel Gabriel appeared to her and let her know that she would conceive the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 484-486)
- Mary was obedient to the will of God even though she didn't understand how this was possible because she had never been with a man. With a trusting heart and her free will, Mary said, "yes" to God with the words, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:28-38, CCC 494-495)
- Mary's faith and trust in God's will for her life is inspiring.
- *Project and image of Mary as the Mother of the Church and ask the youth to respond: How would you describe the most perfect mother?*
- Mary remained a virgin even through the birth of Jesus. He was her only Son. However, her motherhood is shared with each person that is a part of this world. Jesus came to save all of us and also shares with us His perfect mother. (CCC 499-507, John 19:26-27)

JESUS' LIFE

- We don't hear a lot of what Jesus' early and hidden life was like. His childhood remains a mystery. But we do know that everything that Jesus did and said was to reveal God's great plan to save us all. (CCC 516-521)
- *Project an image of the Nativity.*
- We do know that He was born into this world as a baby. He had to learn how to walk and talk like each of us did. He was cared for by His mother, Mary, and adoptive father, Joseph, a humble carpenter. (CCC 522-526)

- *Ask the youth to respond: How many of you have a younger brother or sister? What is one of your favorite things about him or her? Can you imagine that Jesus was, at one point, that same age?*
- Jesus grew up learning the skills of a humble carpenter, and they taught Him the Jewish law. He honored His parents by being obedient to them and by being a faithful Jew. (CCC 431-534, CCC 527-530)
- *Project an image of Jesus being found in the temple.*
- His parents also worried about Him like all parents worry about their children. There was even one such occasion where they actually lost Jesus in Jerusalem and later found Him in the temple teaching. (Luke 2:40-50)



GOING DEEPER

Read the full account of Jesus being found in the temple and discuss with the youth what Jesus revealed to His parents when He said, “How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:40-50).

- After this occasion of Jesus being found in the temple, He went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph where He continued to grow and learn. (Luke 2:51-52)
- Because Jesus lived an ordinary life and grew up with experiences that are similar to every single one of us, He can relate to us and knows what it is like to live day to day life. He knows what it is like to live in a family and to grow up, and He can enter into those moments with us. (CCC 533)
- *Ask the youth to respond: Do you ever struggle with learning something new or with studying for class or doing homework? Jesus had to learn things just like you! How can you invite Him into those moments?*
- The next time we hear about Jesus and His life is when He is an adult and begins His public ministry.

JESUS’ EXAMPLE

- Jesus’ Incarnation makes Him both one hundred percent God and one hundred percent human. He became a man to help us see and understand Him.



GOING DEEPER

Read John 1:14 and discuss with the youth the importance of God becoming man, taking on flesh, and how that changes our relationship with God.

- God didn’t want us to be afraid. He wanted us to know the great love He has for each one of us.
- By experiencing life the way we do and coming into this world as a baby, growing up as a child, living the life of a teenager, and becoming an adult, Jesus becomes a real person to us. He is someone we can see, touch, and hear.
- Jesus is someone that understands pain and sorrow the same way we do. He also knows the joy and excitement of the good things in life.
- We can learn a great deal about what it means to be a part of a family from Jesus. He trusted His parents to guide Him and to keep Him safe.

