
DEFEATED

An Edge Night on Jesus' Passion and Death

EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Snap Story (5 min)

As the youth are walking in, play the "Apostle Snap Story: Part III" 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:

It can be difficult for us to understand why Jesus had to die or why that was a part of God's plan. But as we begin to unpack this incredible gift of love and self-sacrifice, we begin to see the great mystery of how we are saved from our sins and death and brought to new life through Jesus' death on the cross.

An Unsettled Situation (10 min)

The purpose of this activity is for the youth to feel unsettled and to give them a real life example of what it would be like to be in the crowd that was accusing Jesus.

For this activity pick your sweetest Core Member to be ridiculed. To set this example up, have the Core Member not in the room at the beginning of the Edge Night. In the front of the room where instructions are usually given, explain that there was supposed to be a game but said Core Member was supposed to run it and isn't even there yet. Have other Core Members chime in with comments such as, "yeah, he hasn't been too reliable lately," or "yes, she said she was going to do it but dropped the ball again. I can't believe she left us hanging like this."

The comments should not get too extreme, but the youth should feel a bit unsettled since they are seeing their Core Member be ridiculed.

After a few minutes of comments, have said Core Member walk into the room and up to the front of the room and stand silently with a hurt look on his or her face. This leads straight into the talk which is either given by the youth minister or said Core Member.

PROCLAIM

"Defeated" Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 56 to 58.

BREAK

Defeated Brainstorm (15 min)

Break the youth into their small groups. Give each group a large poster board and markers. Challenge the youth to come up with a list of movies where a character sacrifices his or her life, or puts his or her life in danger, to save someone else.

At the end, have all the youth share their list. As the first group shares their list have the other groups raise their hands if they have the same movie on their list. If so, both (or all) groups cross the movie out. Continue until all the groups have shared the remaining movies on their list. At the end, the group with the most movies still on their list wins a prize.

Small Group Discussions (10 min)

The youth remain in their small groups and discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think so many movies have similar story lines where there is some sort of self-sacrifice?
- What does it mean when someone is willing to sacrifice his or her life for someone else?
- What does this reveal about Jesus Christ?
- What does Jesus' self-sacrifice do for us?
- How is His sacrifice connected to the Eucharist?
- How can you be more attentive to what is happening during Mass and more open to receive Christ in the Eucharist?

8th Grade Adaptation (10 min)

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

- How did you feel during the activity at the beginning of the Edge Night?
- *Read Luke 23:13-25 aloud.*
- How do you think the large crowds felt in the situation? Do you think they felt pressured to go along with the leaders?
- Has there ever been a time in your life where you felt wrongly accused or pressured to go along with a crowd? Explain.
- How do you think Jesus felt being falsely accused?
- Is it hard for you to believe that He endured all of that out of love for you? Why or why not?

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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 ACCUSATIONS

- Explain to the youth that the entire situation at the beginning of the Edge Night was a setup to help them understand what it was like to be in the crowd witnessing Jesus' being accused.
- Ask the youth to respond: Were you uncomfortable? Why?
- Imagine now what it must have been like to live in the time of Jesus and to see this holy man being accused of many different things. Would you have joined in and believed the leaders? Would you have stood up for Jesus? Or would you have just remained silent?
- It may be hard for us to understand why Jesus had to die, but we know that through His death God's saving plan was accomplished once and for all. (CCC 571)
- But there was a lot that led up to the death of Jesus that helps us to understand more about why He died the way He did and why it was so hard for people to know what to do about Him.
- From the beginning of Jesus' public life He was misunderstood, He was different, and a lot of people found His teachings to be difficult and offensive. Because of this they sought to destroy Him. (CCC 574-586)
- The things that offended people the most and confused them the most was that He was a holy man but ate with sinners and showed them extreme mercy — even forgiving them of their sins. (CCC 587-589)



GOING DEEPER

Share with the youth specific Scripture stories of some things that Jesus did that caused this controversy. For example, read Luke 19:1-10 or John 8:1-11.

- Above all else, when Jesus revealed Himself as God, this was the hardest thing for people to accept because, if it wasn't true, He was committing one of the greatest crimes of blasphemy (which is an extreme offense against God). This crime was punishable by death. (CCC 589-591)
- While it may seem like Jesus' death was due to unfortunate circumstances or a bad coincidence — it was actually a part of God's plan all along.

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS PLAN

- It can be hard for us to understand why Jesus had to die, why it had to be so violent, and why Jesus could not have freed us from sin any other way.
- But the truth is that Jesus' suffering and death are a part of God's plan. (CCC 599)
- Scripture foretells of this great plan — that Jesus would save us all — that He would take on all the punishment of our sins, including the greatest punishment of sin, which is death. (CCC 599-603)
- Christ's whole life speaks of the loving plan of God to set all of humankind free from their sins. He reveals to us, in everything, the great love of God and the greatest act of love is that of dying for the ones that you love. (CCC 604-609, John 15:13, 1 John 4:10, Romans 8:32)
- At this time refer to a popular movie that has a battle scene where one of the main character's sacrifices (whether or not he or she actually ends up dying) his or her life to save other people.
- God loves us so much that He was willing to die for us. He was willing to give the greatest sacrifice of His very life to save us — all of us. There is not a single person who has lived or ever will live for whom Christ did not suffer and die. (CCC 605)
- If dying for us was not enough, Jesus continues to give to us out of love. The night before He died, He instituted the Eucharist.
- What this means is while He and His disciples were eating the Passover Meal, a tradition for all Jews, He mysteriously transformed the bread and wine into His very Body and Blood which would be sacrificed for us all. (CCC 610)
- The Eucharist is directly tied to the death of Jesus, and it is given to us so that we can participate in the new life, free from sin, which Jesus wins for us on the cross. (CCC 610, Luke 22:19, Matthew 26:28, 1 Corinthians 5:7)
- The apostles who were present with Jesus at the Last Supper were told to continue to partake in the meal of the Eucharist and were given the power and authority to continue it. This was passed down to our priests who celebrate the Eucharist for us every Sunday at Mass. (CCC 611)



GOING DEEPER

Play the video "You Are What You Eat" from the *Media Suggestions*.

JESUS IS OBEDIENT

- Jesus was human. He did not want to die or suffer in the way that He did, but He knew that it was all a part of God's plan to save us. (Matthew 26:39)
- *Read Matthew 26:39 aloud.*

