
LEADER OVERVIEW

The word church means “convocation or assembly” and “what belongs to the Lord.” In the Church, God calls us together as His people. The Church comes forth from the plan of the Holy Trinity — the Father, from the beginning of creation, desired for all humanity to share in His divine life. It was always the plan to bring about the gathering of the people of God to form the “family of God” through the Church.

Jesus continues this plan of the Father by preaching the Good News and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Jesus gathers people around Him, directs and gives structure to the Church through the apostles, and ultimately gives life to the Church through the giving of His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity on the cross and in the Eucharist.

The Holy Spirit was sent on Pentecost to continually sanctify the Church, giving her all the gifts necessary to continue the loving mission of the Father and the Son — to gather all people to the family of God. The Church, which is so lovingly guided by all members of the Trinity, will come to perfection at the end of time when Jesus comes again. (CCC 751-764)

The Church has both visible and invisible realities. It is a visible organization with structure and visible members. But at the same time, it is also a spiritual communion as the mystical body of Christ, filled with heavenly riches. The Church’s goals are the invisible reality of the “inner union of man with God” and the visible reality of the “unity of the human race.” God has willed “to make men holy and save them, not as individuals... but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge Him and serve Him in holiness” (CCC 781). (CCC 770-781)

The Church is the Body of Christ. This means that Jesus is the head and all those who believe and respond to God’s word make up the Body of Christ and share a great unity with Him. There is diversity in the members, but they all work together in unity to make up the one Body of Christ. The Church is also the Bride of Christ, and there is an intimate relationship between Christ, the Church, and all of His faithful people similar to that of a bride and bridegroom. The Church is also the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is present in all the sanctifying acts of the Church; “what the soul is to the body, the Holy Spirit is to the Church, which is the Body of Christ” (CCC 797). (CCC 790-797)

The community of the Church and the people of God are distinguished by their baptism and identity as God’s children, sharing in Christ’s role as priest, prophet, and king. In the Lord’s prayer the people proclaim “our,” which means that we have become His people and He is “our” God. This also means that, as children of God, we belong to each other for the Church is a new communion that excludes no one. (CCC 782-786, 2786-2793)

KINDLING

An Edge Night on the Church

EDGE NIGHT OVERVIEW

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the youth to recognize that throughout time the Holy Spirit has been preparing to gather all people together into one “family of God,” which is the Church.

SUMMARY

The Edge Night begins with a Gather where the youth learn about St. Philip Neri and do an activity where each small group must efficiently gather items for a camping trip. During the Proclaim, the youth learn about the Church and how it affects them. The Break gives the youth an opportunity to work together and discuss the importance of the unity of the Church. The Edge Night ends with a prayerful Send during which the youth have time for prayer in small groups.

MAIN IDEAS

- The word church means “convocation or assembly” and “what belongs to the Lord.” The Church is not created by humans but by God. (CCC 751-752)
- God desires that, through the Church, we should be brought into one family with Him and with one another. (CCC 772-776, 781)
- It is through the Church and the sacraments that we are able to physically encounter God and come into communion with Him. There is not a more direct way to God.

ENVIRONMENT

Decorate the room like a campsite. Include items such as a tent, a camp chair, a table, supplies for s’mores, etc. Make the focal point of the campsite the fire ring; however, do not have any materials inside the fire ring. Instead, scatter the wood, sticks, twigs, and other kindling around the rest of the set up campsite.



MEDIA

“Burning in My Soul,” Matt Maher (*All the People Said Amen*, 2013, Provident Label Group LLC)

“Faithfulness,” Matt Maher (*Echoes*, 2017, Provident Label Group LLC)

“Build Your Kingdom Here,” Rend Collective (*Build Your Kingdom Here*, 2017, Integrity Music)

“Hallelujah is Our Song,” Sarah Kroger (*Hallelujah is Our Song*, 2013, Sarah Kroger)

“Firelight,” Matt Maher (*Saints and Sinners*, 2015, Provident Label Group LLC)

“Dios de Pentecostés,” Pablo Martinez (*Abbandonado*, 2008, Pablo Martinez)

EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

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

Throughout time, God has been preparing for you to be a member of His family, the Church. The Church is more than the place we go on Sundays; it is the path God chose for us to enter into communion with Him and with one another. This week at Edge, we are going to discover why we need the Church and our own importance within the Church.

Begin in prayer by using the *Come Holy Spirit* projection found on the *August 2018 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2018* for the youth to follow along.

St. Philip Neri (5 min)

Use the following information to share three fun facts about St. Philip Neri and the work he did to teach others about the Holy Spirit.

Fun Facts

1. After a mystical vision of Jesus, which inspired his conversion, St. Philip Neri felt a call from the Holy Spirit to live for and serve God in a radical way, so he left his family business and dedicated his life to sharing the Gospel with others, serving the poor, and eventually through the priesthood.
2. Saint Philip Neri was a great conversationalist and led people closer to Christ through his personality and sense of humor.
3. He gathered people together to discuss questions about faith, study, and for music. He encouraged people to join together in community and live their faith life together.

Teaching on the Holy Spirit

Saint Philip Neri had a great devotion to the Holy Spirit. When in prayer In 1544, on the eve of Pentecost, St. Philip Neri saw a great globe of fire which entered his mouth and filled him with intense love. His heart expanded with the incredible love of God until he cried out, "Enough, enough, Lord, I can bear no more." He noticed a swelling near his heart and though it caused him no pain, it was later discovered that two of his ribs had been broken because his heart had literally grown during this experience.

Packing to Camp (15 min)

This game is played in small groups.

1. Give each small group a backpack, or bag, and a list of items they need to pack. This can include things as simple as a bandaid, water bottle, rope, flashlight, etc. Make sure to have enough of each item so that each small group gets one.
2. Hide these items around the room.
3. Either tell the youth where the items are or create riddles for them to find the items.
4. Instruct the youth to go together as a team to each location to gather the supplies and put them in the backpack.
5. Allow the youth to decide how to most efficiently gather items, depending on where they are placed. Explain that they must pack all the items in the backpack well in order to finish the challenge.
6. The first team to get back to the main meeting space with every item packed in their backpack wins.

After every group has completed the task, have a large group discussion. Use the following questions to help guide the discussion:

- What were some strategies you had for this activity?
- What made this task easy to complete?
- What might have helped your group complete this task more efficiently?
- Did a few people do most of the work or did you work together?



STEP IT UP

Instead of hiding the scavenger hunt items around the meeting room, hide them around the parish campus and do an outdoor scavenger hunt.

PROCLAIM

“Kindling” Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 46 to 48.

BREAK

Marshmallow Stack (15 min)

Before the Edge Night, gather the following supplies for each small group: six large marshmallows, a rubber band that fits snugly around the marshmallow, and a 12-inch piece of string for each small group member.

This activity is done in small groups.

1. The objective of this activity is to build a pyramid with six large marshmallows; the catch is that the youth cannot touch the marshmallows with their hands.

2. Instruct each youth to tie his or her piece of string to the rubber band.
3. The youth must pull on the string, working together, to expand and fit the rubber band around the marshmallow so as to pick it up using only the rubber band and strings.
4. Using this technique, the youth must move all six of the marshmallows to build the pyramid.
5. Even if a marshmallow falls, they can only use this technique to move it back to the pyramid.
6. The first small group to successfully create a pyramid wins.



SUGGESTIONS

If you have more than eight youth in a small group, consider breaking the group in half and have two sets of materials available. If a group finishes this easily, challenge them to build a fourth level onto their pyramid.

Small Group Discussion (10 min)

Keep the youth in their small groups and use the following questions for discussion:

- *Reflect on the Marshmallow Stack activity.* What made the task difficult? What made the task easier?
- How did each person affect the rest of the group?
- How does this remind you of the Body of Christ?

8th Grade Adaptation

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

- *Reflect on the Marshmallow Stack activity.* What made the task difficult? What made the task easier?
- How did you have to work together? How is this like the community of the Church?
- The Church brings us into communion not only with God but also with one another. How does this affect the way we should act toward one another?

SEND

Our Father (15 min)

Gather the youth back to the large group, but have them sit in their small groups. Give each group a large candle. Dim the lights and put on quiet, reflective music. Use the following as an example to introduce the prayer time:

We are one body in Christ. Therefore, when we pray, we are united with the whole Church and the Trinity. We call God “our Father.” “Our” is a word which declares belonging, which means we are His children. Since we are all His children, we belong to each other and no one is excluded from this family. When we gather together in prayer, we gather as His family, and Jesus tells us “for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the

midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). We must overcome our own divisions and join together in prayer with and for one another. (CCC 2786-2789, 2790-2793)

Instruct the youth to pray in their small groups. After the Core Member lights the candle to create a more prayerful atmosphere, invite the youth to go around the circle and take turns sharing one thing they want to thank God for and one prayer intention. Once they have all shared, end the prayer time by lifting up all the prayer intentions and pray an Our Father together.



SUGGESTIONS

Most Hispanic youth learned these basic prayers in Spanish. Consider projecting the text of the Our Father in English so youth who don’t have it memorized in English can still pray in unity with the group.

Notes: _____

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, 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.

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

- *Ask the youth to respond: What do you think of when you hear the word “church”?*
- We often think of the Church simply as a place where we go to Mass. But the Church is also the group of people who come together and share the same beliefs.
- The word church means “convocation or assembly” and “what belongs to the Lord.” The Church is not created by humans, but by God. (CCC 751-752)
- God created us to be in relationship with Him. It was His plan from the beginning to bring all people together into one family to share in His divine life. This family is the Church. (CCC 758-762)
- *Share a story about a time when you planned a trip for a large group of people. Describe how your desire to bring people together in one place built community and share about some of the preparations.*
- In a similar way, God desired to bring all of His people together in a place of community, the Church; but the difference is that God’s preparations took a lot longer and began at the beginning of time!
- After Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, humankind was scattered throughout the world, separated from God and from one another.
- But through the Holy Spirit, God began to gather His people back to Himself — not in a physical sense but in a spiritual sense. He brought His people together through covenants, or promises, that united them under His care.
- All of these covenants, or promises, were eventually broken by God’s people. So God sent His Son, Jesus, to establish a final, everlasting covenant that would never be broken and would gather His people together once and for all.
- Jesus began the work of God in His public ministry through His preaching and the works and miracles He performed.
- All were welcomed to God’s family including both Jews (those who were already considered God’s people) and Gentiles (those who were not). Jesus even had the Twelve Apostles help Him in spreading the news of God’s family. (CCC 763-766)

- After Jesus spent three years preaching about the family of God, He gave new and everlasting life to the Church by giving us His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity on the cross in the everlasting covenant. (CCC 763-766)
- At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given to the Church to give her the gifts she needs to go out and bring all people to God through the Church. (CCC 767-768)
- The Church will be brought into perfection at the end of time when Christ comes again. (CCC 764)



GOING DEEPER

At the Crucifixion, Jesus was stabbed with a lance, and blood and water flowed forth from His side. Just as Eve was created from the rib in Adam's side, the Church was born from Christ's side. Discuss how the water and blood symbolize the waters of Baptism and the Eucharist.

- Today, we are brought into God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism and are united more closely to Jesus through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. (CCC 782-786)
- The sacraments allow us and give us the strength to love our roles as members of the family of God.

COMMUNION WITH GOD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER

- God desires for us all to be one family through the Church. (CCC 772-776, 781)
- The Church includes people on Earth as well as those who have gone before us; this is called the mystical Body of Christ. (CCC 770-771)
- *Project an image of the Body of Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-24.*
- One image that is used to describe the Church is the Body of Christ.
- Jesus is the head, and we are His body. Though we are all members of the same body, we all have a unique and necessary role. (CCC 790-795)
- *Ask the youth to respond: What roles do you play in your family at home? Are all the roles of your family members the same?*
- Another image that is used to describe the Church is the Bride of Christ.
- For this imagery of the Church, Jesus is the groom and He literally lays down His life for His bride, the Church. Jesus makes promises to the Church and takes care of her forever. (CCC 796)



GOING DEEPER

Discuss how the marriage of a man and a woman is called to reflect this image of Jesus and the Church.

- Finally, the Church can also be described as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- *Project an image to display the Church as the temple of the Holy Spirit.*
- Just as our soul gives life to our bodies, so does the Holy Spirit give life to the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit gives life to the Church and unites her with Jesus. (CCC 797)

COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED.
AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.



COME HOLY SPIRIT PROJECTION

Project this image during the Gather for the youth to follow along with and pray. This projection can be found on the *August 2018 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2018*.