



Youth Group Online Gathering: Discovering Holy Week

Preparing ahead of time:

- This gathering assumes you are using Zoom to connect with your group. You will also need to know how to share your screen and a video on this platform. If you are new to using Zoom, go here for helpful tips <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>
- Join the call 10 minutes before the Zoom call is set to happen so you can greet participants as they arrive.
- When you send the link to your youth for your meeting, ask each participant to have on hand something they like to create with – so, it could be pencil crayons or felt pens and paper OR playdough or modelling clay OR lego or building blocks OR collage materials OR pen and paper.
- Make sure you have the following items on hand, ready to go for your gathering:
 - o Christ Candle and matches
 - o Your choice of something to create with
 - o Your Bible
 - o Download the Bible Project video from <https://bibleproject.com/all-videos/gospel-series/>. The video is *Gospel & Acts Luke Ch 19-23* (or find the link at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=_unHmAf7lNk&feature=emb_logo)

Purpose of this Gathering

The purpose of this time together is to hear the story of the last week of Jesus' life, to contemplate and notice where we find ourselves in the story and to recognize God's call for us to notice hope and light in the midst of darkness or despair.

Outline of the Gathering

Greeting and Welcome

- Greet each participant as they come into the online room.

- Encourage that the youth to use their video and audio on their computers if they are able as it allows for us to be fully present to one another and support caring for one another.
- IF you have not built an online covenant with your group, do this now. There are ideas in the following website link to support building community online with youth: <http://www.pmfirfirstthirdresources.ca/building-community-online.html>
- When all of your group has gathered, light your Christ Candle and share a prayer of your own or this one:

Check in with One Another

- Deepening connections online is important as it is in face to face gatherings – there are ideas for questions you might ask each participant in your group at <http://www.pmfirfirstthirdresources.ca/building-community-online.html>.
- Share by invitation – a good habit to start with your group regardless of how you meet! Ask one person to go first and then after they are done sharing they invite someone else in the gathering who shares and then asks another participant and so on until everyone has had a chance to share. If participants do not want to share or speak, ask them to invite another participant so the “circle” keeps going.

Watch the video video:

The Bible Project – Luke Ch 19-23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=unHmAf7INk&feature=emb_logo

Discuss:

- What do you notice about this video?
- Are there parts of the story you heard for the first time today?
- Are there parts of the story that are missing?
- What is the most important part of this story for you?
- How does this story make you feel?

Creative Moment:

- Using your choice of creative outlet, create a piece to share with the group (if you choose) about what you heard and felt about this story. You as the leader might want to have some quiet instrumental music in the background. Allow about 4-6 minutes for the activity.
- After the creating, encourage the participants to share their piece using their video cameras to share their work. You can do this piece of sharing by invitation – if people don't want to share, they can simply ask someone else to go next. *The expectation is that this piece might have themes of darkness or sadness or grief for your participants. Listen for understanding and notice the themes that come up for people.*

A Reading from the Psalms

- Share with your group that you will be sharing a Psalm together. *Historically, psalms are the prayer book of God's people. Some psalms or parts of psalms draw attention to what is wrong with the world and the pain and confusion and anger we have about how horrible the world is. Some psalms or parts of them draw attention to what is good in the*

world, they retell the story of joy and celebration. The great thing about psalms, even the ones that focus on lament is that at the same time we are noticing the pain in the world, we are forward looking to the promise and hope in the future. Psalms remind us that God is here, we are not alone. They affirm God can hear us. Lament shifts to Praise. Faith shifts to Hope. Jesus quoted the psalms at his death because they were his book of prayers, too.

- As you read Psalm 130 (from *The Message* or your choice) invite your participants to hear the message and prayer – what is the lament and faithful act? Have your participants share what they hear.

Psalm 130

Help, GOD—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

God, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears!

Listen to my cries for mercy.

If you, GOD, kept records on wrongdoings,
who would stand a chance?

As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,
and that's why you're worshiped.

I pray to GOD—my life a prayer—
and wait for what God will say and do.

My life's on the line before God,
waiting and watching till morning,
waiting and watching till morning.

O Israel, wait and watch for GOD—
with GOD's arrival comes love,
with GOD's arrival comes generous liberation.

No doubt about it—God will redeem Israel,
buy back Israel from captivity to sin.

- Read it again, inviting your participants to hear the prayer – what is the hope and praise? Have your participants share what they hear.

Creative Moment

- Remind your participants - *We Are an Easter People. We know that this part of the story of Jesus is not the end of the story. We know that Christ is resurrected, that new life in Christ is just three days away. It doesn't mean that the pain and horror of the despairing parts of this story goes away – it means there is new life and light that overcomes that pain and sadness. The Light of the World will rise and breathe and move through the cracks to light up the darkness.*
- Invite participants to take their creative piece they made and see if there might be ways to add in hope and light into the piece. It might be that they create a whole new piece or in some way they add to their original piece. (PS – you might need to remind them, creativity is messy and beautiful and it will all be good!) Again, you as the leader might want to have some quiet instrumental music in the background, keeping in mind the tone of the music! Allow about 4-6 minutes for the activity.

- After the creating, encourage the participants to share their piece using their video cameras to share their work. You can do this piece of sharing by invitation – if people don't want to share, they can simply ask someone else to go next.

Close in Prayer

- Ask the group – what do you notice about the creative pieces now? How might this reflect your life right now? What is your prayer going from this time together? Again – ask participants to share by invitation.