Pacific Mountain Region – First Third Ministry

Youth Group Program Outline: Theme: “Connection” & “Community”

Preparation beforehand:

1. Make sure to send out an email to your Youth Group reminding them of your upcoming Youth Group online (my preferred platform is Zoom so that I can interact with the Youth and it is private and secure)
   1. If using Zoom remember to send out the Zoom link, meeting ID & Password (it is always good practice to enable the ‘waiting room’ feature on Zoom so that you can only let in those you know
   2. In this email remember to include any supplies that the Youth will need to do before the Youth group gathering or have with them throughout the gathering
2. To try to make something to look forward to each week I am also getting the Youth to have a weird theme for each meeting, this week is “**Crazy Hair Friday**”, so the Youth with the Craziest Hair-do will get a prize!

Program Outline:

* 7:00pm
  + Greet each Youth as you let them into the Zoom Meeting (I like to acknowledge each by name so that they know that I can see them and that they feel a part of the gathering)
  + Lighting of the Christ Candle
    - While lighting the Christ Candle I like to say: “There was once someone who said and did amazing things that people started to follow him, and as they followed him they just had to ask who he was, and when they asked he said ‘I am the Light of the World’”.
      * I have been using this with my youth for years and continue to do it with them because it gives them a sense of normalcy to our online zoom gatherings
* 7:05pm
  + Check-in & Showing of Crazy Hair-dos!
    - Check-in Questions
      * What was a Rose (good thing) and a Thorn (not so good thing) about your week?
      * Theme Question: How are you connecting with people during this time?
    - Showing off of Crazy Hair-dos
      * Each Youth will show us and describe their Hair-do
      * Other Youth will vote for their favourite Hair-do and cast their vote into the Chat box privately to the Leader
        + The one with the most votes will win a prize!
* 7:15pm
  + Opening Activity
    - Youth will need to go out and find 3 things in their homes (give them 60 seconds to complete this task) that they use to connect with others and create community
    - Youth will then share what they have collected and described why they chose those things
* 7:30pm
  + Video Clip
    - This clip comes from the Movie “Freedom Writers” that is based on a true story of a teacher that bands together her English Class in a High School in a rough neighbourhood of LA and how they are affected by the connections and community that they establish with one another
    - Link to Video clip: [www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/freedom-writers/i-am-home](http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/freedom-writers/i-am-home)
  + Discussion Questions
    - How do you feel connected to your community? How is this different during the times we are living in right now?
    - What are the benefits of feeling connected to a supportive community? Do you sometimes feel like the student in the video clip?
* 7:45pm
  + Homework for Next week
    - Youth will brainstorm different ways that we can stay connected as a community during these times and how we can support one another
      * We will then talk about how we can put these into practice during next week’s Youth Group gathering
* 7:50pm
  + Fun Closing Game: ZOOM IN!
    - Slides: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NVrtRFYl327PeF5Bk8QVxeA96bxfNcBN58BDb3-ipcA/mobilepresent?slide=id.g83f9b524e5_0_58>
    - Description of activity: Youth will try to guess the object on the slides, though it is zoomed in very close so it might be harder for them to see it!
* 7:55pm
  + Goodbyes & Closing
    - Everyone will share 3 things that they are grateful for in their lives right now (they will then invite another youth to share until everyone has shared)