

PMR First Third Ministry
Youth Group Program Outline

Week of May 24-30, 2020

Theme: "What is Good news these days?"

Purpose of this Outline:

- This resource is for your use with the Youth in your Community of Faith as we continue to meet online and to help inspire conversations of action and social justice with the Youth
 - You are more than welcome to see this outline as a jumping off point, for inspiration, do not feel the need that you need to follow it exactly! Each Youth Group is different, so you can tailor it to your context

Preparation:

- It is important to send an email to all of your Youth Group families (if you send it to your youth or their parents/guardians email addresses) that includes the Zoom meeting link and any materials that the Youth might need for your online gathering
 - I like to send the emails to both the Youth and their Parents/Guardians email addresses because it gives both parties an opportunity to discuss the theme of the Youth Group as a family and how it might apply to them
 - Let the Youth know that they should gather any video links or news articles or 'Good News' and send you the links ahead of time so that you can share them with the group
 - Ask youth to gather a piece of yarn or string before hand (for closing prayer)
- Security Measures for Zoom
 - Enable the "**waiting room**" function when scheduling your Zoom meeting because it allows you to monitor who is coming into the meeting and decline those who you do not know
 - It is key to always use a **Meeting password** when scheduling a Zoom meeting because it makes it more difficult for hackers to get into your online gathering
 - Only send your Zoom meeting link and details to your participants and their families because if you happen to post the meeting details on any social media platform (even if it might be a 'private group') it makes it easier for hackers to infiltrate your meeting
- Gathering of any supplies needed for Online gathering: Christ Candle, Lighter/Matches,

Program Outline (60 minutes of total programming)

- **Opening** (2-3 Minutes)
 - Greet each Youth by name as they log on to the Zoom Meeting
 - Remind Youth that it is important for safety that they keep their Video function on and so that they can fully engage in the online gathering

- Lighting of the Christ Candle
 - Feel free to say whatever words you like to say as you light the Christ Candle
 - I tend to use the words from Godly Play by saying “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 him who he was, and one time when they asked him he said, I am the Light of the World”
- **Check-in** (5 minutes)
 - Check-in Question
 - What is the first thing you are going to do when all the lockdown is over?
 - What is something you have learned about yourself during this time?
- **Devotional/Bible Study** (6-8 minutes)
 - Pose these questions to the group:
 - What do you think it means when we are being called ‘to be an Easter people’?”
 - What good news have you seen or come across recently?
 - Is it hard to filter through all the stressful/sad new stories and find the hopeful ones?
 - Ask one of the Youth to read the Bible Passage from Acts 1: 1-11 (NRSV)
 - 1In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
 - Allow Youth to ponder on this Bible passage, then open the **Whiteboard function on Zoom** and let them either draw or write what comes up for them when they hear that passage from Acts

- **Action** (13-15 minutes)
 - Beforehand, gather the video links and news articles that the Youth sent you prior to the gathering and select a few to share with the group via the **Screen Share function on Zoom**
 - Share John Krasinski's "Some Good News" Show on YouTube (here is just a snippet of one of the episodes, but you can pick whichever episode you like)
 - Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXdKrtmexWU>
 - Discussion
 - Ask Youth what Jesus might have meant for us to be 'witnesses' in the world, as said in Acts 1:1-11
 - Is there another word we might be able to use instead of 'witnesses'?
 - Jesus asked his disciples to go out into the world and share the 'good news', but how can we do that today?
- **Closing**
 - 'Virtual' Web Prayer
 - Ask youth to get their piece of yarn/string and hold it up to the screen
 - Allow by invitation, each youth can share what they are grateful for and what is connecting them to each other as a Youth Group
 - After each Youth has shared, ask Youth to hold up their piece of string to the screen so hopefully you can see one long line of string across the video screen (it might be a fun idea to screen shot this so that later you can show the Youth that even though they are not together in-person, they are still connected to one another and to God)