

Loving our Neighbour Is Loving Jesus

2

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

REMEMBER

Each reflection point must cover at least one key text from 'The Good News' as well as allowing participants time to consider their own experience, so the reflection points have the following sections:

- The Good News (Sacred Scripture)
- Personal Story (The personal reflection of the participants based upon their experience)
- Each Reflection Point must conclude with a liturgy

This session should be a minimum of 60 minutes, but no more than 90 minutes.

An example on how you may want to lead the day as a leader is set out below, identifying the key objectives of the session, Explore, Understand and Reflect.

Time Sample Session Layout

0.00	<p>Group Arrives and Settle Down</p> <p>Icebreaker</p> <p><i>A quick game that will allow the young people to get aware of their surroundings and the individuals who they are going to be spending the next hour in session with. Try http://www.thesource4ym.com/ or http://youthgroupgames.com.au/</i></p>
0.10	<p>Introduction of the theme (EXPLORE)</p> <p><i>As a leader it's important to introduce the theme 'Loving our neighbour is loving Jesus'. During this time it would be ideal to introduce 'The Good News' to explain in a more defined way of what the first reflection point means. The young people can add input on thoughts about the scripture and theme, exploring who is our neighbour and how are we loving them.</i></p>
0.20	<p>Activity</p> <p><i>An activity to allow the young people to come to recognise their neighbours throughout the world, whether this is their best friend, an individual in their community or simply a stranger they have never met. This could be delivered in any way you feel fitting as the leader. It might be ideal to allow the young people to move/ interact and have an input in this activity.</i></p>
0.35	<p>Feedback and Explanation (UNDERSTAND)</p> <p><i>As a leader the activity you pick the young people to take part in should have a link into the session's theme. This time now allows the young people to gain an understanding on why they have done the activity and arises an opportunity of discussion on the work the young people are doing or could do to live out this theme. It is vital that the young people reflect on the work they have done in the last few weeks. How have they helped out other individuals around them? How do you think this work has helped out their neighbours?</i></p> <p><i>For example, the young people may have done a cake sale to fundraise for Cafod, so why did they think it was important to do? What does that money raised go towards? Is there a specific need which they have helped when working alongside Cafod?</i></p>
0.40	<p>Liturgy (REFLECT)</p> <p><i>A time for the young people to welcome God into the session. You may feel the need to do a meditation, prayer stations or creative activity to invite the young people to think more on a personal reflection about the scripture and theme.</i></p>
0.55	<p>Closing Prayer : Faith in Action Prayer</p> <p><i>Invite the young people to participate in saying the prayer.</i></p>
0.60	<p>Session Ends</p>

Below is a sample session which can be used with the young people presenting the 2nd Reflection Point, Loving our neighbour is Loving Jesus.

Time Sample Session Layout

0.00	<p>Group Arrives and Settle Down</p> <p>Icebreaker</p> <p><i>Mark out a line down the centre of your space. All the young people start by standing on the line.</i></p> <p><i>Now call out opposites and point in one direction for each. The young people make their choice and run to the correct side of the line. For example;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cats or dogs? •Blue or pink? •Football or rugby? •Cereal or toast? •Maths or English? <p><i>For a more advanced group you could challenge them more with the options you give;</i></p> <p><i>Going to mass is important? True or false?</i></p> <p><i>I should pray every day? True or false?</i></p> <p><i>I shouldn't have enemies? True or false?</i></p>
0.10	<p>Introduction of the theme (EXPLORE)</p> <p><i>Introduce the parable of the Good Samaritan. You can do this perhaps by reading out the story and the young people acting it out or you can simply read the story to them.</i></p> <p><i>The Lord challenges us to think about how we can love our neighbour in this parable.</i></p> <p><i>A story where a man has been beaten and left on the side of the road, who is going to help him? We first hear about the priest and we would expect the priest to take care of the individual as he is someone who we see as this face of God, someone who has dedicated their lives for the Lord, but instead he carries on walking. Secondly, we have the Levite, a preacher of the good news. Knowing that this person spends their life making others aware of God's presence it's surprising to see how he can walk past a person who is in need of help. The least expected, the Samaritan, a man who is of different faith and race is the one who stops to help and takes care of the man.</i></p>
0.20	<p>Activity</p> <p><i>As we are familiar with the story I have a little challenge for you to complete. Think about the characters we encounter in this parable and try and complete the maze on the sheet.</i></p> <p><i>Guiding the man to the Samaritan and the innkeeper is the challenge, whilst placing the other characters on the paths which don't lead to the correct destination.</i></p>
0.35	<p>Feedback and Explanation (UNDERSTAND)</p> <p><i>Why do you think Jesus chose the Samaritan to be the one who helps?</i></p> <p><i>He is trying to teach us that EVERYONE is our neighbour, no matter what background, race and faith. He asks us to help all the people in need, not just the ones who are close to us.</i></p> <p><i>Do you think it is hard to love everyone? Why?</i></p> <p><i>I know that some of us have challenged ourselves already to live out this message in the work which you do to complete your FIA award... Have a think of what work you have done to help that neighbour in need... Have you helped others within school? Within the community? Across the world from you?</i></p> <p><i>Although we may have done a lot of things already to live out this reflection point and that is brilliant, we are challenged to keep living this out in our day to day lives... so, what else could you do to care for those in the world?</i></p>
0.40	<p>Liturgy (REFLECT)</p> <p><i>Invite the young people to create a Love your neighbour kit. (Attachment)</i></p>
0.55	<p>Closing Prayer : Faith in Action Prayer</p> <p><i>As the young people have gained a greater understanding on this theme, challenge them to think of someone in their own lives who is in need of support, help, or forgiveness. After creating their kits in this time ask them to think of someone in their own lives who is in need of the kit.</i></p> <p><i>The challenge is to give this kit away to that person.</i></p> <p><i>During this time you can play a reflective piece of music in the background.</i></p> <p><i>Conclude with the Faith in action prayer.</i></p>
0.60	<p>Session Ends</p>

