

READ INTO IT

Lectio Divina

LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

Goal for the Life Night

The goal for this night is to help teens learn how to use Scripture in their prayer life through Lectio Divina. The night gives them a hands-on experience of Lectio Divina in a group and individual setting that will allow them to go deeper into Scripture and see how it relates to their daily walk with Christ.

Life Night at a Glance

Tonight is a special night in which the teens will learn what it means to truly allow Scripture to take root in their lives through prayer. The youth minister and Core need to minister to the teens by preparing themselves for the night through praying Lectio Divina. If a Core member has not prayed Scripture this way, they will find it hard to lead the teens tonight, so begin this practice with your Core Team prior to this night. The night begins with a very fun and interactive game show that will test the teens' movie knowledge. It then proceeds into an in-depth explanation of Lectio Divina, followed by practical participation in praying this form of prayer. Finally, the night ends with an opportunity for the teens to practice this type of prayer by themselves.

Environment

You want to create an environment that looks like a movie theater, complete with a big screen, vendor area with popcorn, sodas and candy, chairs, curtains and movie theater lighting. Create a ticket booth at the entrance to the room and have one of the Core handing teens tickets to enter the Life Night. As they enter, have the "previews" playing on the screen. These can either be ads for upcoming events in your program or spoofs of movies currently in the theaters. You can also have the Core work with teens to film their own mock movie previews. The front of the room will also need to be set for the game during the Gather.

GATHER *20 Minutes*

Welcome & Introductions (2 min)

Introduce all the new teenagers attending Life Teen for the first time. Ask them what their favorite movie is.

Name that Movie (18 min)

This game is one that will test the teen's knowledge of one-liners in some of the most popular movies of all time. Get four teams with three teens on each team (you can make it a class competition by having freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior teams). During the game the host will read a line from a popular movie. The team to buzz in first and give the name of the movie that the line is from gets a point (example: one-liner: "I'm the king of the world" answer: Titanic). After each answer is given you can show the clip from that film to ensure that it is in fact the right answer. Have six or seven lines ready to ask the teams. Winners of the movie trivia game win passes to the local movie theater.

To play the game you will need:

- Four teams with three teens on each team
- Buzzers for each team
- One Core member be the host of the movie trivia game show
- Six or seven one-liners selected by your Core Team in advance
- Movie clips for each one-liner to show after the answer has been given
- Prizes for winning team

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Challenge & Closing Prayer (5 min)

Encourage the teens to incorporate this type of prayer into their daily lives. In particular, challenge them to go through this process with the upcoming Sunday's Gospel reading.

Close in prayer with the Hail Mary and Ave Maria.

Community Connection:

- E-mail the teens a different passage of Scripture to pray through each day of the coming week.
- The practice of Lectio Divina is not just for the teens. This night would work as a great parent night as well. If possible, run this night for parents at the same time that you have it for the teens. A priest, deacon, or another parent could be the facilitator of the parent night.

Making It Work:

- In order to promote the night - hand out the movie tickets before Mass and have the teens hand them in as they enter the Life Night.
- The Break of the night can be done as one large group or in a small group setting depending on the size of your group. If you do it in small groups, make sure there is a Bible for each group and the small group leader is comfortable in explaining this form of prayer.

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TEACHING

3. Oratio: This means prayer. This is to be understood as a dialogue with God. This dialogue includes what we have meditated on. This meditation should bring us to a point where we offer up a part of our lives to God in prayer. This part of our lives should impact with the word that we have received and transform it. It may even be understood that we take what is part of our lives and offer it up in the same way that the priest offers the bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ. We offer our lives and make them holy. We especially offer up the parts of our lives that we struggle with the most. In doing so our lives are transformed and become sacred, holy and divine.

4. Contemplatio: This means contemplation. This is to take place in silence, as we take time in our relationship with God to “snuggle.” When we can simply be a part of the love of God and allow him to continue to impact and transform our lives into lives of love, lives that make us holier. This is the time when we encounter, love and surrender to the Divine Presence that is always there in the Scriptures.

Now, we have shown you the four points of the Lectio Divina. So many times we fill our lives with noise. We turn on the radio while we study. We watch TV while we eat. It is almost as if we cannot exist in silence, and it is becoming harder every day. The process of praying the Scriptures in the Lectio Divina allows us to recapture that silence, to recapture that time with God so that we can intensify our relationship with Him, bring Him into the most personal parts of our lives.

Pope John Paul II, “Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II – Ecclesia in America” #31

Pope John Paul II, “World Youth Day XII Message to the Youth of the World” #6

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CHECKLIST

Core Planning Team:

Date of Life Night:

One month prior to the Night:

Give copies of the Life Night to each of the members of the planning team. Each person should read the Scripture and Catechism references as well as review the planning guide before the brainstorming meeting.

Get the planning team together for a brainstorming meeting (this should last no longer than 1 hour). The team prays and discusses where the teens are in their faith journey in relation to this topic. Then using this planning guide as a starting point, the team adapts the Life Night to meet the needs of the teens and the parish. Create a detailed outline with any changes and/or adjustments.

Assign the person responsible for each part of the Life Night:

Environment _____

Introductions _____

Name that Movie Game _____

Teaching (video or live) _____

Large group Lectio Divina _____

Individual Lectio Divina _____

Two Weeks Prior to Life Night:

Turn in a detailed outline of the Life Night to the youth minister. Allow youth minister to give feedback and make any necessary changes.

Create a list of needed supplies and materials. Assign a person to be responsible for collecting and/or purchasing the materials needed.

Decide the people that will be doing the following things. Make sure they have a copy of the script and/or teaching outline. Inform them of any practices and/or deadlines.

Game Show Host _____

Teaching (if not using video teaching) _____

Large group Lectio Divina Facilitator _____

Week of the Life Night:

Written outline of the teaching is given to the youth minister and practiced.

Run a dress rehearsal of the Life Night.

Create environment and collect needed supplies

E-mail entire Core team an overview of the night.

Day of the Life Night:

Make copies of the Lectio Divina handouts. Get pens for all the teens.

Set up the environment. Make sure the room is clean and presentable.

Set up audio and video. Test the video clips to make sure both picture and sound work.

Walk the entire Core team through the Life Night. Make sure all transitions are ready and everyone knows their roles.

Pray! Pray for the teens attending the Night. Pray for God's will to be done through the night. Pray over those involved.