

Lesson Plans for Faith and Identity

Correlated with Curriculum Guidelines for Adolescent Catechesis and Confirmation, Diocese of Buffalo, 2004.

Lesson Plan #1: *The Journey Toward Maturity: A Time of Change* (Faith and Identity pp.11 – 12)

SUPPLIES: Shrek & Princess Diaries DVD/videos TV/VCR/DVD player
Serenity Prayer Cards Masking Tape
Guess Who I Am Cards Chalk & Chalkboard
OR Newsprint & Markers

TIPS FOR FACILITATING DISCUSSION

Let them answer the questions – waiting for answers is important
Reflective listening – repeat back what they say so that everyone hears it
As discussion goes on invite responses from the introverts (more quiet students)

ICEBREAKER/ACTIVITY: Guess Who Am I Activity: Put cards on the students’ backs with names. They cannot look at the cards. The other students can give them clues and they have to guess the name. Suggested names: Humpty Dumpty, Scooby Doo, Mother Teresa, Cat in the Hat, Santa Claus, Easter Bunny, President Bush, Little Miss Muffet, Grinch, Charlie Brown, Shrek, Jesus Christ, Pope John Paul II, Spiderman, the Blessed Mother Mary.

10 min.

VIDEO CLIP: Shrek - Scene where Shrek tells Donkey that ogres have layers. Scene 6 on the DVD. The clip ends when Shrek says, “Bye, bye. See you later.”

15 min.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

The italicized words are potential responses from the young people.

- Why is Shrek angry with Donkey?
Donkey is not listening and is going by stereotypes
- What does Shrek mean when he says, “ogres are like onions?”
There is more to him than the outside, more than just one aspect
- How are Shrek’s feelings and description similar to being a teenager?
Not listened to
Judged by appearance
All the changes “stink” – both figuratively and literally

ADOLESCENCE:

Write the responses on board/newsprint

15 min.

What are the specific changes/layers of adolescence?

You can group these in specific columns according to the categories below as they say them, or give them the categories below and have them state the questions that go with each.

- Physical
 - Why can’t I stop growing/changing?
- Psychological
 - Am I normal?
 - Who am I?

Spiritual

Is there a God?
Why should I believe?

Social

Who are my true friends?
Why don't I enjoy being with my old friends any more?
What changed?
Dances/Proms

Feelings and Emotions

All the ups and downs associated with the previous questions

Intellectual

What is the purpose of life?

BACK TO THE ONION

Donkey said, "They stink?" Shrek noted the awful things people think ogres do. How does society influence the idea of who teenagers are? How does this relate to the layers we discussed?

15 min.

CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US:

Look beyond – Look into the eyes of people and see the soul, not the color of their hair, how they dress or even the color of their skin. When we guessed the names on our backs it was not the physical clues that helped us the most – it was who the person/character was.

VIDEO CLIP: Princess Diaries. Scene where Mia takes the crown as Princess of Genovia

20 min.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

The italicized words are potential responses from the young people.

What does this clip have to do with our discussion?

Mia changed – she has layers

She found out who she was

Adolescence is part of the who am I journey

Why did she accept the crown?

She found the courage to be herself

Where did she get wisdom from?

Parents, friends, grandmother

What about the tiara her grandmother gave her? Whose was it?

Just like God her grandmother trusted that she would become who she was called to be

What does Mia say about saying, "I?"

Eucharist/Body of Christ – thinking of community not just self

CLOSURE:

Get 3/5 responses to the following depending on time:

I now know . . .

I still wonder about . . .

I understand . . .

5 min.

PRAYER:

Give out the Serenity prayer cards and pray the prayer together.

5 min.

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Lesson Plan #2: Faith Developing a Relationship with God – IMAGES OF GOD
(Faith and Identity pp.13-14)

SUPPLIES: materials to work with: e.g. glue, construction paper, felt, scissors, ribbons, glitter glue, gel pens, pipe cleaners etc.

ICEBREAKER/ACTIVITY: From *Confirming Disciples* – Section six pg. 12: Are you Someone Who Is... sample questions: Are you someone who is more like a party animal or a quiet evening at home?

TIPS FOR FACILITATING ACTIVITY: If it is a large class, divide the class in groups of no more than eight. They can be divided by birth months or, as they come into class hand them a certain color and ask them to find all those people who have the same color. Each group should then nominate a recorder and a speaker who will speak for the group.

PRESENTATION:

Today we will be talking about the various images of God. We will begin with one, love. Have someone read 1 John 4: 7-11. Take a few minutes to think about what are other images that come to mind when you think about God and why do you have this image of God. After a few minutes of reflection, allow them, using the materials, to come up with a symbol or symbols that is representatives of what their image of God is at this moment. (10 minutes)

Once everyone is done, have each one share their symbol(s) and the facilitator will write down on newsprint some of the key words that each of them share. When all have shared, have them look at all the words that are on the newsprint and come up with a name and a symbol for their group that they are all in agreement with.

Place a candle in the center and play some meditative music and ask them to write a letter to God explaining their personal faith journey up to this point. Tell God what your image of God is at this time and how it has changed over the years. (10 minutes)

CLOSING PRAYER: Play and sing the song from *Spirit and Song*: “Open My Eyes” by Jesse Manibusan or “Mountain of God” by Marc Cavallero, Dan Brennan and Ken Canedo or “Awesome God” by Rich Mullin or “Our God Reigns” from Leonard E. Smith

- Read: Psalm 16:5-11.
- Then, invite students to finish these sentences: I thank you God for... or I ask God for...
- Pray together: All loving and caring God fill us with an authentic Thank you for all that you do in our lives. Guide us in all that we do. Help others to see you in all that we do. Help us to see you in ourselves and in others who are made in your image and likeness. Amen.

CLOSURE: What did you learn from this experience or finish the following sentence, Right now I feel...

- Design a tee-shirt with each group name and symbol; allow teens to wear these on special occasions, and while doing service projects, and at a special liturgy or youth gathering. Give them a handout with readings which will help them invoke new and fresh images of God. e.g. Psalm 103 – God our Guide; Psalm 72, 82 – Defender of the poor and justice seeker; Isaiah 49:15-16, 66:13 – God our protector etc.

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