**Life Night no. 5**

**Palm Sunday**

1. Purpose: What are we trying to accomplish?
   1. Encounter/Conversion
   2. Introduce teenagers to the person of Jesus Christ
   3. Foster an encounter with Jesus Christ
      1. Who is he? How does he fit into my life?
2. (15 min) **GATHER** 
   1. Video and presentation that illustrates what people are willing to sacrifice for Jesus.
      1. What makes all these people, every generation in human history, surrender their lives to Jesus?
   2. Begin by showing Colin Kapernick’s Nike Ad – “Believe in something. Even if means sacrificing everything.”
      1. Whether you agree with him or not, Colin sacrificed a great deal for what he believed in. He’s not the only one. Plenty of people make great sacrifices every day for what they believe in.
      2. Show pictures of others who have sacrificed. *(When the Nike ad came out, the internet erupted with alternate versions that could work here. Ex: Tim Tebow and Pat Tillman. OR you can use your own examples)* Briefly share about each one for those who may not be familiar with the person or their sacrifice.
      3. How much are you willing to sacrifice for your beliefs? A career as a professional athlete? Your friends? Your freedom? Your life?
      4. Do you have something in your life that you would make great sacrifices for?
      5. Lead to a conversation about the people throughout history who have sacrificed it all for Jesus.
      6. Consider showing Episode of Alpha: Why the Bible to hear the testimonies of two women who endured persecution
         1. https://alphausa.org/alpha-film-series-preview#episode-592f4aee8419c2f203b89eaf
      7. Generation after generation, we see people sacrificing everything for Jesus. What is it about Jesus that makes so many people willing to sacrifice it all?
      8. Who is he? Have you answered that question yourself? Have you thought about it? That’s what we’re going to explore today.
3. (10 min) **PROCLAIM**
   1. (10 min) Who is Jesus?
      1. Lunatic, Liar, or Lord -C.S. Lewis
      2. Is Jesus who he says he is?
         1. Some claim that he is a holy person, but not God.
         2. C.S. Lewis says that’s the one thing you can’t say… Because he claimed to be God. So he was either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.
      3. Consider showing the fist 2 minutes of Episode 2 of Alpha Youth Series : Who is Jesus?
         1. https://run.alphausa.org/team/84302e8de834888e789367636370d34c/10894/plan
      4. Below are talking points pulled from Fr. Mike Schmitz’s talk from “Belonging”
4. Is Jesus who he says he is?
   1. Some claim that he is a holy person, but not God.
      1. C.S. Lewis says that’s the one thing you can’t say… Because he claimed to be God. So he was either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.
5. A liar- he wasn’t God and he knew he wasn’t God
   1. Personality profile/psychology of a compulsive liar – they have certain traits:
      1. They are narcissistic, self involved, lack compassion and creative
      2. Jesus doesn’t fit the profile of a liar
6. A lunatic – he wasn’t God, but he didn’t know he wasn’t God
   1. If I told you that I was the pope, you would realize that I’m disconnected from reality (ex: I’m Marie Antoinette, I’m a butterfly, etc)
   2. Jesus is unique- He does not claim to be the greatest prophet of all time or Elijah come back from the dead. He claims to be God. People all around him would very quickly catch on that he is disconnected from reality and the he isn’t who he says he is.
   3. But when you read the story, you see he actually is living like he’s connected to reality.
7. Lord – he is who he says he is
   1. This argument doesn’t prove that he is. But he did.
   2. If someone walked into church right now and claimed to be God, you would ask them to prove it. That’s exactly what they did in Jesus’ time, too.
      1. The last 3 years of his ministry is him proving that he is who he says he is. His resurrection is the greatest proof.
8. Fr. Mikes’ Belonging video ends with the following question: If he is who he says he is, than you are who he says you are. Who is it that Jesus says you are?
9. (25 min) **BREAK**
   1. Break up into small groups
   2. Questions:
      1. Who do you think is the most famous person amongst your age group?
      2. Who do you think is the most famous person in the world?
      3. What would you want to be famous for?
      4. We talked about how through the entire human history, the person of Jesus is known and has been followed in a way that is not seen by any other. Why do you think Jesus is so famous?
      5. That slogan from Nike – “Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything”… Do you think people resonate with a level of sacrificing everything for a cause?
      6. What cause or belief would you sacrifice everything for?
      7. What is required to make someone sacrifice everything?
      8. Who do people think that Jesus is?
      9. Who do you think Jesus is?
10. (25 min) **SEND**
    1. Move into church for a time of adoration.
    2. Prayerful atmosphere, music ministry ready
    3. Guided prayer time (Palm Sunday meditation/reflection)
       1. Paint the picture of Jerusalem.
       2. What was happening on Palm Sunday in Jerusalem?
       3. Paint a picture, inviting them to imagine…Who was there? What were they looking for? What were they expecting?
       4. Who was this Jesus that was creating such a response? Who was he *really*?
       5. Give examples of the types of people in the crowd. Some believed that Jesus was God, some weren’t sure, some had questions, some didn’t believe, some were there out of curiosity, some were there because they saw him heal, some because they believed He was the messiah, etc.
       6. Then, ask them to consider who they are and which member of the crowd they relate to.
       7. Guide them into the meditation with Jesus. What do they say to Him?