

Youth Night

Original Sin and the Fall of Man

Purpose of the Night

This youth meeting is designed to discuss the topic of Christian morality by pointing back to the original choice by Adam and Eve that broke the moral law and led to Original Sin.

Supplies Needed

Several small cardboard boxes

Preparation

Snacks/fellowship time (20 minutes)

Before diving into the topic, have snacks or even a meal available for the youth as they arrive. Allow them time to socialize with their friends as well as to meet any new people. Be sure to have yourself as well as any core team mingle among the kids and reach out especially to anyone who may be new. This time would also be a good time for any announcements as well as announcing any birthdays.

Extreme Jenga

Divide everyone up into small group teams. You will need at least two teams. Take cardboard and create a bunch of rectangular blocks. Blocks can be any size although the bigger the block the better. Just be sure to make all of the blocks the same size. Once you have built the blocks, create a tower by placing a series of levels with each level containing 3 blocks side by side. Alternate the direction of the blocks with each level. Have each team sit together. Place the tower in the middle of the room. Ask the groups a series of Bible trivia questions. Each group will write down an answer and hold it up as quickly as possible. If they are wrong, they must keep going until they come up with the correct answer. The last team to come up with the correct answer must pull a block from any row except the top, and place it on top of the tower. Repeat the process until one team knocks down the tower. The team that knocks it down is out. Rebuild the tower and repeat the process until one team is left. Here are examples of trivia questions:

- Who is Jesus' mother? - Mary
- What is the first book of the Bible? – Genesis
- What was the name of the giant David defeated? – Goliath
- What ancient Israelite had extreme strength but lost it when his hair was cut off? – Samson

- Name the 4 Gospels. – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Who was Jesus' cousin whom preached about Jesus' coming? – John the Baptist
- What is the last book of the Bible? – Revelation
- Where did Jesus go for 40 days before beginning His public ministry? – the desert
- Name Adam and Eve's first two sons. – Cain and Abel
- What was the name of the town that Jesus grew up in? – Nazareth

Introduction of the Topic (5 minutes)

Transition the youth into the main space to begin the night. The youth minister will begin by processing the game and introducing the topic of the night.

Proclamation(The proclamation is a key word, sentence, phrase, quote, or Scripture verse that sums up the message for the session. This should be short, easy to remember, and something that is repeated throughout the talk and the session. Below is a suggestion for the session 1 proclamation.)

Proclamation Verse: *Romans 5:12 – “Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all”*

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Reading (Philippians 2:5-11)

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Humanity's Sin through Adam. Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned— for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We come before you this day as broken and sinful people. We are sinners just as our first parents in Adam and Eve. Yet you had mercy on the, and promised Christ as a redeemer to draw us out of our sin. Give us the grace to cling to your Son and rise above our own faults. We ask this in your name.

Amen.

(Optional) If you have a musician who can begin the night with a praise and worship song, that could be used as the opening prayer

Explanation

Teaching (15-20 minutes)

Choose a speaker to talk to your group about this topic and its importance in our lives. The speaker can be the youth minister, a core member, a parish priest or deacon, a guest speaker, or anyone who you feel may be qualified to speak on the topic. You can use the outline below to provide some thoughts for this talk.

The Original Purpose of Man

- Genesis 1:27 – *“God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female* he created them.”*
- As human beings, we are created in the image and likeness of God.
- Mankind was in perfect union with God.
- Before the fall, man was completely innocent.

The Fall from Grace

- The Fall of the angels
 - Revelation 12:7-9 – *“Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it”*
 - Lucifer rebelled against God and was cast out of Heaven where, through evil, tempted man in an effort to draw us from God
- The Fall of man
 - Genesis 3 – Story of the Fall

The hope that is to come in Christ

- Though man separated from God, God did not abandoned man
- Promise of redemption – Genesis 3:15

- *Romans 5:12 – “Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all”*

Application

Small Groups

Divide up into small groups of 5-8 people or one group if you have a smaller group as a whole. Use the questions below as a guide.

- What has stood out to you from tonight so far?
- What does it mean to you to be created in God’s image and likeness?
- How does the Fall relate to us today? What do you think some “modern day fruit” would be?
- Knowing what you know now, would you have eaten the fruit? Why or why not?
- Who in your life is the authority of what is right and wrong?
- How do you think Satan tempts people today? What tools does he use?
- Is there a time in your life when someone told you not to do something for your own good but you chose to do it anyway? How did your decision affect others?

Celebration

Gather in a church or prayerful place to conclude the night. Read out loud the story of the fall of man from Genesis 3 and invite the youth to reflect on the story for a couple of minutes. . Ask them to place themselves in the story to reflect on their own experiences of temptation. Invite them to call to mind the one or two temptations that they face the most in their lives.

Conclude the night by wrapping up the topic and discussing the hope we find in Christ, especially as we sit in His presence. Close in prayer in front of the tabernacle (if possible). Read the Scripture verse again from the opening prayer (Phil 2:5-11) and close by offering a prayer of thanksgiving, followed by a Hail Mary.

Resources/References

- Scriptural References
 - Genesis 1-3
 - John 3:16-17
 - Romans 5:8
 - Romans 5:12-21
- Catechism References
 - 55, 309-314, 385-390, 396-398, 402-409, 1707-1708