

Pro Life Youth Night Reclaiming a Culture of Life

This talk and youth night is geared toward high school students. The talk includes the details of various abortion procedures and may not be appropriate for younger/ some teens. As teachers or youth leaders, please preview the video contents and ensure that your audience is age appropriate. Notifying parents of the video and discussion is recommended before the viewing.

Goal

The goal of this youth night is for teens to evaluate their personal mission in reclaiming a culture of life.

About this Youth Night

This youth night is designed to be used with the teen track video presentation by Jacinta Florence that was created for the 2020 Respect Life Convention.

Gather – 20 minutes

Welcome, Introductions, and Prayer

Gather the teens into the main meeting space, welcome them to the night, and do any necessary introductions. Begin the night in prayer.

Egg-dropping contest (15 min)

Teens will be broken up into teams for the game via the small group for the evening – 5-6 teens per team. (If you would prefer for teens to work alone/smaller groups to meet your county's social distancing guidelines, please adjust the group size accordingly.) Give each group a box of the following materials: a Styrofoam cup (1), coffee filter (1), toothpicks (4), paper (1 sheet), scissors, masking tape (1 foot), rubber bands (2), plastic grocery bag (1), and one raw egg. Each team will have ten minutes to construct a contraption that will protect the egg from breaking. The group is only allowed to use the materials given to them. Each group should pick a designated representative to drop the egg. Once the ten minutes are up, direct the groups to go to the designated egg-dropping location. (If the weather allows, outside is ideal for cleanup.) The egg-dropping location will need a measuring device to ensure that each representative is dropping the egg from 10 feet and a ladder/chair/platform for the designated representative to stand on. If a lot of the groups' eggs survive the 10-foot drop, have a second drop from 15 feet. The winning group will win a prize of your choosing!

Once the game concludes, and you begin the transition into the Proclaim section, explain to the teens the importance of teamwork in protecting the vulnerable.

Proclaim – 35 minutes

Introduction - Jacinta Florence

Jacinta Florence is the Missouri & Arkansas Regional Coordinator. She works to train and equip pro-life students in Missouri and Arkansas to abolish abortion.

Jacinta was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she graduated from St. Gregory's University with her bachelor's in Social Sciences. Upon graduating from St. Gregory's, Jacinta moved to Philadelphia to work with Generation Life as a full-time Chastity Speaker. During her time with Gen Life, Jacinta traveled up and down the east coast giving talks on chastity and pro-life issues. Whether praying in front of Planned Parenthood with her co-workers or giving an all school assembly, Jacinta saw the connection with chastity being the solution to end abortion at its root cause.

After working with Gen Life, Jacinta moved to Denver, Colorado to attain her master's degree from the Augustine Institute in Leadership for the New Evangelization. During this time in Colorado, Jacinta was able to serve as President of the Denver Pro-Life Future chapter and speak at the local SFLA workshop. She also focused on Sidewalk Advocacy and building up the pro-life community among young adults. She is now excited to serve as Regional Coordinator for Missouri and Arkansas and is excited to re-claim a Culture of Life among students in Missouri and Arkansas. She currently resides in St. Louis.

Jacinta serves pro-life students in Missouri & Arkansas.

Video – Jacinta – 30 minutes

Video explains different forms of abortion, the importance of chastity, and our call as the Church to take a stand and reclaim a culture of life.

Break – 25 minutes

Small Groups

Youth minister should break teens into their already designated small groups with their appointed group leader. The group leader should lead the small group in prayer and guide the students through the questions below.

- What is one thing you want to remember from Jacinta's talk? Did something surprise you, or did you learn something new? If so, what was it?
- Abortion is the most heated and controversial issue in our time. Why do you think pro-life issues generate so much passion in people?
- Why do you think people are hesitant to stand up for life?
- We read in Genesis that God created man and woman as the highest and most important part of creation. "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end..." (CCC 2258)
 - How is the dignity of all human life attacked in our culture? What is the opposition to pro-life issues look like in your life?
- How are you called to take a stand for life (in big or small ways)?

Send – 15 minutes

Spiritual Adoption

The youth night ends with an opportunity for the teens to spiritually adopt a baby in danger of being aborted. The youth minister will explain the concept of spiritual adoption and then invite the teens to participate in this form of prayer. (Note: this activity should be voluntary.)

Spiritual adoption consists of personal daily prayer for nine months for a child in danger of being killed by abortion. This commitment is made with a public promise to God, in the presence of a group, such as this one. Each person making the commitment makes it for the protection and defense of one child whose identity is known to God. The person making this commitment can name the child and then lift the child and their mother up in prayer daily for 9 months.

Give the teens a short time of quiet reflection, (if you prefer, play some instrumental music in the background, to think of a name for the child and write it on the prayer card. (Prayer card print out is attached below.) Remind the teens that this is a commitment to pray for the child for 9 months. Even though it is unlikely that will meet the children that we pray for, we believe that the power of prayer is effective and may save lives.

When the teens are ready to make a commitment to pray for the unborn, invite the teens to stand one by one to share their adopted baby's name and recite the prayer on the card out loud in front of their peers. Have the teens remain standing after reciting their prayer. After all of the adult volunteers + teens (who want to participate) have prayed out loud, remind the group that when we stand and unite our prayers, change happens. We are called to continue to unite our voices boldly with others who stand up and defend life – that is our mission. Before closing the night, youth ministers should thank the teens for their bold witness and encourage them to keep the card somewhere where they will see it and pray it daily.

Close the night in prayer with a Hail Mary.

Prayer for Life

Heavenly Father, you have made all human life in your image and likeness. Give me the ability to recognize that image in everyone, so that respect for all human life becomes my way of life. Father, help me stand and give a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. I commit my life from this day forth to be an advocate for even the smallest of human life. Grant me boldness and courage in the face of opposition. Help me be an example of your love for all your children.

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Spiritually Adopted Child's Name

His/Her Birthday (9 months from today)

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.
- Ven. Fulton J Sheen

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