



POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD RE RESOURCE FOR TY CLASS

How does Jesus want me to live my life?

OVERVIEW OF THE RESOURCE

AIMS:

- To explore how working in parish and community can help a young person to discern God's plan;
- To understand by doing activities in parish and community, where a personal faith comes into play;
- To understand that prayer strengthens our relationship with God;
- To develop an awareness of the spiritual dimension of life;
- To foster an encounter with the person of Jesus;
- To recognise that faith is a way of living life, lived out under the guidance of the Holy Trinity; and
- To encourage faithfulness to an individual's baptismal vocation.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be given the opportunity to:

- Discuss the belief that we are created in the image of God;
- Pray more deeply and more frequently; and
- Share their own faith journey with others.

SESSION 1 OF 3 - JESUS IN MY LIFE

Teacher Script:

Over the coming weeks you will have an opportunity to think about the presence of God, of Jesus in your life. You will be able to think about your personal relationship with Jesus.

Through an activity selected by you, you will have the opportunity to delve deep into your heart and ask yourself. . .

What is God's plan for me?

What is His dream for my life?

To ask yourself . . .

Do my actions . . . my behaviour . . . reflect my acceptance of Jesus?

Does my belief in Jesus transform not just my life, but the lives of those around me?

Does Jesus live within me?

Do Jesus and I journey together along the road of life?

Catechesis

To help us on our journey through this world, God has given us a gift . . . the sacraments, sacred encounters of celebration which help us to come to know Jesus better. When we celebrate the sacraments, we are responding to an invitation from Jesus to accept a gift. He is the giver of the gift. It is our decision whether we accept the gift or not. The sacraments are not primarily obligatory practices that Catholics have to engage in. They are sacred moments of encounter and celebration that we are invited to share in.

Since the sacraments are gifts, nobody has a right to any sacrament. We don't have a right to be baptised. It is God's invitation and gift to us. When a child is presented for baptism, the parents are responding to God's invitation for their child . . . the child is being welcomed into the family of God.

This is the first step on our journey to God the Father. We respond to God's gift by listening to God in prayer. . . listening to his Word . . . receiving the Sacraments . . . We respond by doing the work God wants us to do . . . by responding to God's call . . . by reaching out to others . . . by being Jesus in the world.

Our faith journey is full of ups and downs. Youthful trust in God has been replaced perhaps . . . by a more questioning stance . . . We are always searching . . . seeking happiness . . . fulfilment . . . sometimes in the wrong places . . . *'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you'*

Augustine's Confessions (Lib 1,1-2,2.5,5: CSEL 33, 1-5)

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SESSION 1 OF 3 - JESUS IN MY LIFE

Discussion Focus

You are invited to carry out an activity/piece of research which speaks to your own faith development. To consider how your faith impacts on the way you live your life and how your faith impacts on those around you.

Key words of focus for the activity: Sacraments. . . Baptism. . . God's dream for me. . . My response. . . Transformation

Closing Prayer

God our Father,
Saint John Paul II tells us to trust Christ;
To listen attentively to his teachings,
To fix our eyes on his face,
To persevere in listening to his Word,
To allow him to focus our search and
our aspirations and all our ideas and
the desires of our heart.

Help us God our Father,
to do this so that all the actions and
decisions of our lives are done with Jesus
who is our Saviour and friend
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Lady of Knock pray for us
and for the young people in Ireland.

NEXT SESSION - LISTENING CONVERSATION

In our next session we will interview a guest who has completed the Pope John Paul II Award. We will focus on:

- How have they lived their faith in their parish community?
- Why is a parish community important?
- How have they helped others in their parish?

Contact Details

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SESSION 2 OF 3 - LISTENING CONVERSATION

INTRODUCTION

There may be older students within the school who have completed and achieved the Pope John Paul II Award. Invite those students to share their experience with this year's TY class.

The purpose of the activity is to help each student reflect on:

- How can I live my faith in my parish community?
- Why is my parish community important?
- Can I help others in my parish?
- Who should I talk to, to get involved in my parish?

TASK

Invite a past participant who has completed and achieved the Pope John Paul II Award to share their experience with the class. Listen carefully to what they have to say about their faith journey, and ask them the following questions:

1. What was your relationship with faith/God/religion before doing the Award?
2. Has your relationship with God changed in any way since doing the Award?
3. What impressed you most in your parish?

After the interview, discuss with your class group what you have heard. How does their experience challenge you in your faith journey?

SESSION 2 - LISTENING CONVERSATION continued

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NEXT SESSION – SHARING FAITH

In our next session we will explore Sharing Faith:

- God's plan for your life;
- strengthening your relationship with Jesus;
- developing your spiritual dimension; and
- the importance of prayer in your life.



SESSION 3 OF 3 - SHARING FAITH

INTRODUCTION

Time given to this 'Sharing Faith' activity will depend on the amount of time students have in Religious Education. It may be as little as two weeks or as much as 4-5 weeks. The length will also depend on the activity chosen.

The purpose of this activity is to help each student reflect on:

- God's plan for their lives;
- strengthening their relationship with Jesus;
- developing their spiritual dimension; and
- the importance of prayer in their life.

TASK

Students discuss in groups/with teacher the various 'Sharing Faith' activities listed below and decide which task they will do – this can be a group response (all must contribute) or a solo activity. They can plan and discuss in their group how they will proceed. Class time and outside of class time can be used to complete the task.

Sharing Faith Activities

- Interview someone you know – e.g. parent/older person/teacher/friend, and ask them to share their faith journey with you. (Permission to record must be sought from the participant(s) and the teacher).
- Prepare a short liturgy suitable for younger students about God and Faith for use at school assembly or school Mass.
- Compose a prayer about your relationship with God.
- Draw your vision of God.
- Develop a storyboard/Canva/PowerPoint presentation of a Bible story of your choice.

SESSION 3 - SHARING FAITH continued

- Create a video of other young people in your school and ask them about 'how important God is to them?' (Permission to record must be sought from the participant(s) and the teacher).
- Produce a piece of music which speaks to you of God.
- Write lyrics for a song which speaks to you of your relationship with God.
- Research a local charity/faith group in your parish and find out how, through their work they are fulfilling the command of Jesus to 'Love God and Love your Neighbour'.
- Write a modern day short play based on The Good Samaritan – the play should be performed to an audience.

Closing Prayer

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