

# CROSSWORDS

## LECTIO DIVINA

### EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

#### SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 15:16  
2 Timothy 3:14-17  
Hebrews 4:11-13  
Isaiah 40:30-31  
Matthew 7:13-14  
Philippians 4:4-7

# 2723-2724

#### YOUCAT

# 16  
# 19  
# 491  
# 502-504

#### CATECHISM

# 131-133  
# 2653-2654  
# 2705-2708  
# 2709-2719

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Large Cross
- Table w/ Cloth
- 2 Candles
- Lighter

- Basket
- Large Bible for Environment
- Handout: "CROSSword Puzzle" (page 41)
- Pens
- Prizes
- Bibles
- Poster Board
- Markers
- Handout: "Prayers Please" (page 43)

#### GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the middle school youth to understand what *Lectio Divina* is and how it can make Scripture come to life in their lives.

#### EDGE NIGHT AT A GLANCE

One of the most common reasons people give for not reading the Bible is that they do not understand it or feel overwhelmed with where to start. Yet, as Catholics, we are called to read and pray through the Scriptures on a regular basis in order to grow in holiness. While this may seem like a tall task, we are blessed to have a style of reading the Bible that can help us to understand it and relate it to our lives. That style is called *Lectio Divina* meaning, "divine reading," and is a four-step process that can be done individually or in a group setting to help us focus in on a particular word or phrase from a given scripture passage.

To help the middle school youth understand what *Lectio Divina* is, this night will begin with a

Crossword puzzle that challenges them to find different verses in the Bible and pick out the missing word. This transitions into the Proclaim, which is a basic teaching on what *Lectio Divina* is and how it works. During the Break, the youth will have an opportunity to experience *Lectio Divina* with their small group. Once this is complete, they will discuss this experience and do several activities to further bring it to life. Finally the Send will give them an opportunity to offer up a prayer based off the word or phrase that stuck out to them in their experience of *Lectio Divina*.

#### ENVIRONMENT

The environment for this night should be very simple and set a prayerful tone for the evening. Setup a large cross at the front of the room. In front of the cross, have a table with a cloth over it and an unlit candle on each side (these candles will be lit for the closing prayer). Between the candles, place the largest Bible you can find and have it opened to one of the Gospels.

## MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

Song: "Word of God Speak" by MercyMe (*Spoken For*, INO Records)

Song: "Everlasting God" by Lincoln Brewster (*Let the Praises Ring: The Best of Lincoln Brewster*, Integrity Media)

Life Teen Video: "Drag & Gary: Odd Scriptures" (Life Teen Video Support 9) – Also available at <http://vimeo.com/channels/dragandgary/>

# GATHER

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

(10 min)

As the youth enter, have fun upbeat music playing in the background.

The youth minister should gather all the youth together, welcome them to Edge Night, and lead an opening prayer. He or she should introduce any youth at Edge Night for the first time and present a brief overview of the session.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(15 min)

Have youth get into small groups. Each group will receive the handout, "CROSSword Puzzle" (on page 41) and several Bibles. Working as a team and utilizing their Bibles, they will attempt to complete the CROSSword Puzzle within the allotted time. Once a group thinks they have all the correct answers, one member from the group should find the youth minister to see if they are correct. The first group from each grade level to complete the CROSSword Puzzle and have it checked by the youth minister wins a prize. (Note: The CROSSword Puzzle was put together using the translation from the New American Bible).

Once the game is over, the youth minister should go over the answers in the large group (See Answer Key on page 42). Award prizes to the winning group from each grade level.

# PROCLAIM

## SCRIPTURE PROCLAMATION

(5 min)

2 Timothy 3:14-17

## "CROSSWORDS" TEACHING

(10 min)

### Biblical Confusion

Think of some of your favorite books of all-time. Do you remember reading them? While reading them, did you ever have a moment when you had to go back and re-read a sentence or two because it didn't make sense? We've all probably been there before. We read something that doesn't make sense to us, so we have to go back and read it a bit slower to understand what was going on at that point in the book.

What about the Bible? Do you ever read the Bible or listen to the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass and think, "What does *that* mean?" For many of us, it can be easy to throw our hands up and say, "Why bother?" But, as we just heard in the Scripture Proclamation from 2 Timothy, reading Scripture is pretty important.

Now if you've ever had trouble understanding the Bible, guess what? You're not alone. All the Core Members here, your youth minister, and yes, even your priest struggle to fully understand the Scriptures. But, there is good news! The Church teaches us a way to read the Scriptures in order

to help us to understand them more fully. We call this: *Lectio Divina*.

### **Lectio What?**

Lectio what? *Lectio Divina* is a Latin term that means “divine reading” and has been used for centuries as a way to read and understand the Scriptures. It’s a very simple four-step process that can be done individually or in a group setting with any particular Scripture passage. So, how does it work?

### **Step 1: Lectio**

The first step in *Lectio Divina* is called *Lectio*, which means reading and listening. You choose a small passage from Scripture, read it slowly, and listen carefully for what God may be whispering to you in your heart.

### **Step 2: Meditatio**

The second step is called *Meditatio*, meaning meditation. At this point, you go back and read the Scripture passage again. This time you pick out a particular word or phrase that stands out to you from the reading much like we picked out particular words during our CROSSword puzzle.

### **Step 3: Oratio**

After getting your word or phrase, you move on to the next step: *Oratio*, which means prayer. You read the Scripture passage one more time and, with the word or phrase in mind, discuss it with God. What is He trying to say to you through this word or phrase? How does it relate to your life? After reflecting on some of these things, you offer up these parts of your life to God so that you may grow in holiness.

### **Step 4: Contemplatio**

Now, it’s time for the final step in *Lectio Divina*, which is called *Contemplatio* or contemplation. Once again you read the Scripture passage, but there’s no agenda or list of questions. You just simply allow God to love you.

### **Diving In**

So now that you know a new way to read and understand Scripture, it’s time to make it a part of your life. Try taking just ten minutes each week to read a different passage in the Bible and practice *Lectio Divina*. You can do it on your own, with some friends, or even with your family, and if you don’t know which passage to choose, take the Gospel

or another reading for the upcoming Sunday Mass. But regardless of how you do it, it’s time to dive in to the Scriptures and come to understand the most beautiful story ever written, the story of salvation.

# BREAK

## **SMALL GROUP LECTIO DIVINA**

(15 min)

As your small group begins, say a prayer for the group and the activities for that session. For this week, ask one of the middle school youth in your small group to lead the prayer.

To begin this week’s small group discussion, take the youth through *Lectio Divina* by using one of three scripture passages. (As a small group leader, choose ahead of time which passage you think would be best for your group.)

Option 1: Isaiah 40:30-31

Option 2: Matthew 7:13-14

Option 3: Philippians 4:4-7

- *Lectio* (Reading/Listening) – Have one of the youth read the passage you chose out loud. Give your group a few moments of silence to let the Scripture sink in.
- *Meditatio* (Meditation) – Have a different member of the group read the same passage again. This time tell each youth to pick out a word or phrase that stands out to him/her. After a few moments of silence, ask each member of the group to share the word or phrase that stuck out and why.
- *Oratio* (Prayer) – Have another member of the group read the passage again. After a few moments of silence, ask each member of the group to share any questions he/she may have for God in regard to this word or phrase and if the word or phrase brought up any prayer intentions.

# SEND

## LARGE GROUP PROCESS

(5 min)

Have selected small groups present their "Words With Friends" Billboards to the large group.

## CLOSING PRAYER

(10min)

Set the tone for the closing prayer experience by turning the lights down and having a musician play some soft music underneath. Place a basket at the foot of the Cross in the front of the room. Light the candles on the table next to the large Bible at the front of the room.

Invite the middle school youth, as they feel called, to quietly come to the front of the room to place the prayers they wrote in their small groups at the foot of the Cross as a sign of offering them to God.

After everyone has had a chance to come forward, close with the song, "Word of God Speak" or another soft praise/worship song.

Conclude with a prayer based on the overview of the session.

## SUMMARY CHALLENGE

Before the middle school youth are sent home, they will be challenged to remember:

- *Lectio Divina* is a way of reading the Bible that has been done for centuries.
- *Lectio Divina* means "divine reading" and is an easy way for anyone to better understand Scripture.
- There are four parts to *Lectio Divina*: *Lectio* (Reading/Listening), *Meditatio* (Meditation), *Oratio* (Prayer), and *Contemplatio* (Contemplation).

- *Contemplatio* (Contemplation) – For the final time, have a different middle school youth read the Scripture passage. Tell them that this is simply a time to be with God in an extended period of silence and offer up to God anything that this reading stirred up.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(10 min)

After completing *Lectio Divina*, lead a discussion about the experience.

- What thoughts do you have about this method of reading Scripture?
- What was your favorite part of the experience?
- What was the most challenging part?
- What questions do you have about *Lectio Divina*?
- How can you make this way of reading Scripture a more consistent part of your life?

## WORDS WITH FRIENDS

(5 min)

One of the most important aspects of being Catholic is that we don't just keep our faith to ourselves. We share it with others.

As a small group, take a sheet of poster board and create a billboard using markers or other supplies that inspires other middle school youth to read the Bible and grow in holiness. Be sure to incorporate some of the words and phrases from your *Lectio Divina* experience, and be creative.

## PRAYERS PLEASE

(5 min)

As a group, take a look at the "Prayers Please" handout (on page 43). Thinking back to the word or phrase you chose from the *Lectio Divina* experience, have each person write a prayer to God asking to grow in holiness based off this word or phrase.

- This week, you are challenged to take ten minutes and choose a Scripture passage to pray through the steps of *Lectio Divina*.

## TO THE PARENTS OF

During tonight's Edge session, we discussed *Lectio Divina*, a way of reading Scripture that has been practiced for centuries. There are four steps to *Lectio Divina*: *Lectio* (Reading/Listening), *Meditatio* (Meditation), *Oratio* (Prayer), and *Contemplatio* (Contemplation). After learning about this method in tonight's teaching, the middle school youth were able to experience *Lectio Divina* in their small groups using a passage from scripture. After reading the Scripture passage, they chose a word or phrase that stuck out to them, shared why it stuck out to them, and offered this word or phrase up in prayer.

Here are some questions to help start a conversation with your youth about what he/she learned during Edge:

- How does the process of *Lectio Divina* work?
- What Scripture passage did your small group read tonight for your *Lectio Divina* experience?
- What was the word or phrase that stuck out to you in the reading? Why did you choose that word or phrase?

- How can we as a family make reading Scripture more of a priority?

## ADAPTATION IDEAS

- If your Edge group is smaller, try doing the CROSSword Puzzle as individuals instead of in groups. Award the top three individuals from each grade level a prize.
- If you don't have a musician for the closing prayer, use a CD or mp3 player to put on some soft reflective music.
- Invite a priest or deacon to lead the Closing Prayer and offer a blessing over all the prayers the teens placed at the foot of the Cross.

Notes

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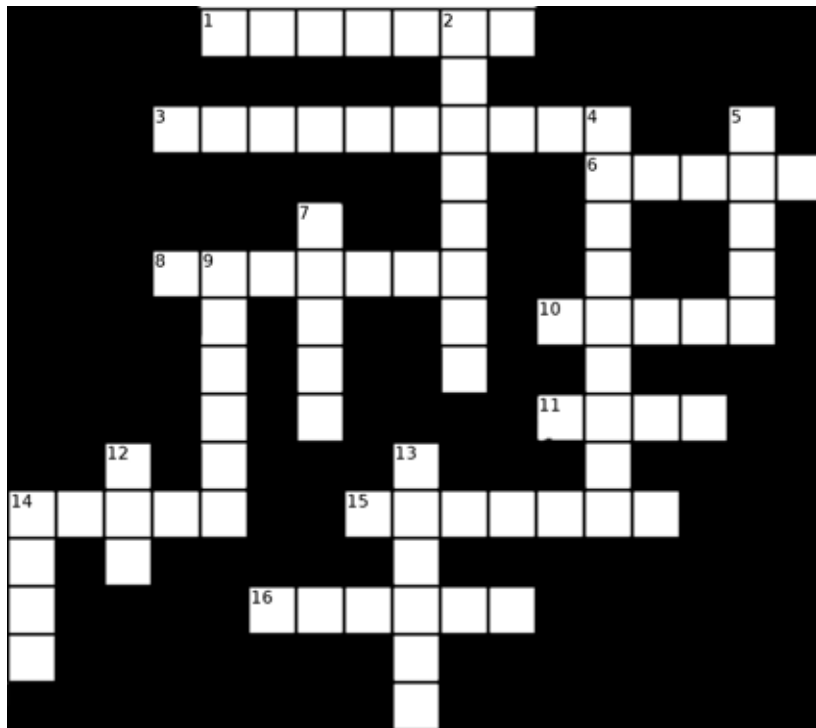
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**ACROSS**

1. According to 1 Corinthians 1:27, God chose these people to shame the wise.
3. According to Mark 13:13, "The one who \_\_\_\_\_ to the end will be saved."
6. Ephesian 6:11 says that in order to stand firm against the devil you should put on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
8. Philippians 4:4 says that we should do this in the Lord always.
10. In Luke 17:5, the apostles tell the Lord to increase their \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Jonah 2:1 tells us that Jonah was swallowed by a large \_\_\_\_\_.
14. These creatures covered the land of Egypt when Aaron stretched out his hand in Exodus 8:2
15. David came \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord in 2 Samuel 6:14.
16. Sirach 6:14 lets us know that "A faithful friend is a \_\_\_\_\_ shelter."

**DOWN**

2. In Psalm 23:1, David proclaims that the Lord is his \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The goal of your faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of your souls as we hear in 1 Peter 1:9.
5. 1 Timothy 4:12 says to let no one have contempt for your \_\_\_\_\_.
7. John 3:16 tells us that God gave his only Son because he so \_\_\_\_\_ the world.
9. "Those that hope in the Lord will soar as with \_\_\_\_\_ wings", according to Isaiah 40:31.
12. When you encounter trials, you should consider it all \_\_\_\_\_, according to James 1:2.
13. Matthew 7:13 says to "Enter through the \_\_\_\_\_ gate".
14. Jesus washes the disciples' \_\_\_\_\_ in John 13:5.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE (ANSWERS)



## ACROSS

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# EDGE NIGHT CHECKLIST

## CORE PLANNING TEAM:

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## DATE OF LIFE NIGHT:

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## ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE NIGHT:

- Give copes of the Edge Night to each of the members of the planning team. Each person should read the Scripture, Catechism, and *YOUCAT* references as well as review the planning guide before the brainstorming meeting.
- Have the planning team meet for a brainstorming meeting (this should last no longer than 1 hour). The team prays and discusses where the youth are in their faith journey in relation to this topic. Using this planning guide as a starting point, the team adapts the Edge Night to meet the needs of the youth and the parish.
- Assign the person responsible for the following:

Environment \_\_\_\_\_

Before the Night (when needed) \_\_\_\_\_

Audio/Visual Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Opening Prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture Proclamation \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaim (discuss with YM) \_\_\_\_\_

Summary Challenge \_\_\_\_\_

## TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EDGE NIGHT:

- Turn in your notes for the Edge Night to the youth minister. Allow the youth minister to give feedback and make necessary changes.
- Create a list of needed supplies and materials. Assign a person to be responsible for collecting and/or purchasing the items needed.
- Discuss with the youth minister who will be giving the Proclaim/witness for the Edge Night. Be sure that this person is given the script and/or teaching. Inform them of any practices, time limits, and/or deadlines.

## WEEK OF THE EDGE NIGHT:

- Person giving Proclaim checks in with youth minister.
- Check that all supplies have been obtained/purchased.
- Create/collect items for environment. Have volunteers ready to help if needed.
- Email Core Team an overview of the Edge Night.

## DAY OF THE EDGE NIGHT:

- Set up the environment. Make sure the room is clean and presentable.
- If needed, set up audio/visual equipment. Test the video clips to make sure both picture and sound work.
- Pray! Pray for the youth attending the Edge Night. Pray for God's will to be done through the night. Pray over those involved.

# EDGE NIGHT EVALUATION

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Use the following questions to discuss and evaluate your Edge Night.

1. On a scale of 1-10, how well did this Edge Night accomplish the goal we set? Explain.

2. What was the strongest aspect of this Edge Night?

3. What kind of follow-up do we need to do after this Edge Night?

4. What can we improve for future Edge Nights? How can we accomplish this?

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