

# HANDMADE

God the Creator

## GOAL

This Edge Night aims to teach the youth that God alone created the universe freely out of nothing and upholds and sustains creation.

## Scripture

Genesis 1:1-31, Isaiah 44:24, Hebrews 11:3

## Catechism

CCC 279-301, 325-349

## Resources

### Video

Bishop Robert Barron, “Understanding Genesis: Creation” (youtube.com)  
Life Teen, “The Joy of Origami - The Fox” (lifeteen.com)

## GATHER

Trivia and Bingo combine for this fun game that kicks off the Edge by highlighting famous creators (artists, composers, movie directors) and introduces the ultimate Creator.

## PROCLAIM

The following are the main teaching points of the Proclaim:

- God is the Creator who made heaven and earth to reveal His glory.
- The Holy Trinity was involved in creation – the Father created through the eternal Word, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, the “giver of life.”
- God created everything, and the summit of His work occurred on the sixth day with the creation of man and woman in His image and likeness. We are distinct from other creatures and possess dignity.

## **BREAK**

Youth become a creator and make something reflecting an aspect of themselves. The purpose is to help them relate to God the Creator. This activity is followed by a small group discussion.

## **SEND**

Youth receive a prayer card and pray together “The Canticle of the Sun,” which gives glory and praise to God for His creation.

## **WEEKLY CHALLENGE**

Pray “The Canticle of the Sun” every day on the way to school.

# HANDMADE

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## PREP

Read through the entire Edge Night and gather all the necessary art supplies for the Break.

Download, print, and copy the “Bingo Card” handout found on the enclosed USB and online at [lifeteen.com](http://lifeteen.com). Cut into individual cards.

Download, print, and copy the “The Canticle of the Sun Prayer Card” handout found on the enclosed USB and online at [lifeteen.com](http://lifeteen.com).

Download “The Joy of Origami - The Fox” video found on the enclosed USB and online at [lifeteen.com](http://lifeteen.com).

## SETUP

Give core members Bingo cards to hand out to youth and “The Canticle of the Sun Prayer Card,” enough for every member of their small group.

Put art supplies in the front of the main meeting space.

Test all audio-visual elements of the Edge Night.

Project the environment image, and play the “ES - Unfolded” Spotify playlist as youth enter.

## SUPPLIES

Prepare the following supplies:

G: Bingo card, one per person

G: Bingo markers, such as game chips, stamps, stickers, or paper punch-outs (optional)

G: Writing utensils, one per youth

B: Various art supplies: sketch paper, drawing pencils, colored pencils, watercolor paints and brushes, palettes, modeling clay, lined notebook paper, origami paper, and instructions how to make origami animals, hearts, and flowers

B: Paper cups of water

B: Paper towels

B: Paper plates

S: “The Canticle of the Sun Prayer Card,” one per person

## CORE ASSIGNMENTS AND NOTES

This youth minister worksheet provides writing space to detail core member assignments and notes specific to running this Edge Night.

### Highlights:

- Select a “caller” for the Bingo Gather game.
- While youth are creating art during the Break, engage them in small talk to continue building relationships among your small group.

**Setup:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Opening Prayer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gather - Creator Bingo**

Bingo Caller: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proclaim - Handmade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Break - Mirror, Mirror, Small Group Discussion** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Send - The Canticle of the Sun**

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

**Closing Prayer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Challenge:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parking Lot:** \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES

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# HANDMADE

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## GATHER

### Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth and introduce those who are there for the first time. Invite the preselected core member to begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the Edge Night topic, using the following as an example:

*Our world is full of mass-produced products, like those found on drop shipping websites Temu and Shein. We don't often see things made by hand. When something is handmade, each part is intricate and purposeful. Artists and craftsmen take special care as they make goods by hand. God, the "Craftsman" behind all of creation, made us and everything that exists with the loving care of an artist for his art.*

### Creator Bingo (15 min)

Core members distribute bingo cards, writing utensils, and markers (optional) to each person.

The Caller announces a bingo space followed by a corresponding trivia question about creators. Players write their answer to the trivia question in the bingo space. Then, the Caller reveals the correct answer. Players with the right answer can mark their bingo space with a chip or stamp or by writing an "x" over the space.

#### Hispanic Inculturation

Consider using *Loteria* cards instead of bingo cards.

#### Step It Up

Put together a slideshow with images of the art and clips of the music and movies from the questions.

#### Creator Trivia Questions

1. Name the artist who painted the Mona Lisa. (ANSWER: Leonardo Da Vinci)
2. Name the singer-songwriter of the song "Single Ladies." (ANSWER: Beyoncé)
3. Name the director of the movies "The Dark Knight" and "Interstellar." (ANSWER: Christopher Nolan)
4. Name the artist who painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling. (ANSWER: Michelangelo)

5. Name the band who sings “Bohemian Rhapsody.” (ANSWER: Queen)
6. Name the director of “Avatar.” (ANSWER: James Cameron)
7. Name the composer of “Symphony No. 9.” (Note: There are many numbered symphonies, so it will be necessary to play an audio excerpt to identify this one.) (ANSWER: Ludwig van Beethoven)
8. Name the pioneer of modern cartoon movies. (ANSWER: Walt Disney)
9. *Project an image of “The Starry Night.”* Name the artist who painted this work of art. (ANSWER: Vincent van Gogh)
10. Name the singer-songwriter of the song “Blank Space.” (ANSWER: Taylor Swift)
11. *Project an image of “The Kiss.”* Name the artist who created this work. (ANSWER: Gustav Klimt)
12. Name one of the singers of the song “I Will Always Love You.” (ANSWER: Dolly Parton, remade by Whitney Houston)

## PROCLAIM

### “Handmade” Teaching Reflection (10 min)

The teaching can be found on pages 42 to 44. The following are the main points covered in the teaching:

- God is the Creator who made heaven and earth to reveal His glory.
- The Holy Trinity was involved in creation – the Father created through the eternal Word, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, the “giver of life.”
- God created everything, and the summit of His work occurred on the sixth day with the creation of man and woman in His image and likeness. We are distinct from other creatures and possess dignity.

## BREAK

Project and watch “The Joy of Origami - The Fox” video before transitioning into small groups.

### Mirror, Mirror (15 min)

Provide a variety of art supplies for a creative activity. Use the following suggestions or come up with your own:

#### Drawing

Sketch paper, drawing pencils, colored pencils

#### Painting

Watercolor paints and brushes, palettes, cups for water, paper towels for drying

#### Sculpting

Modeling clay, paper plates for sculpting

## Creative Writing and Poetry

Lined notebook paper, writing utensils

## Origami

Colorful origami paper, instructions how to make animals, hearts, flowers, etc.

Instruct the youth to divide into their small groups. Then, invite them to create something that reflects an aspect of themselves and provide multiple methods of creating: sketching, coloring, molding clay, writing a poem, painting with watercolors, and origami.

Share a few examples of art that the youth can create, such as a self-portrait or sculpture, a drawing of a favorite hobby, a watercolor painting that illustrates your personality, or a poem that describes you. Encourage the youth by saying that the goal is to create, and there is no right or wrong way to do so. Invite the youth to pick up supplies. Ask them to maintain a quiet and prayerful environment. Play prayerful music.

### **Small Group Discussion (10 min)**

Use the following questions to foster a discussion within the small group:

- Whip Around Question: What's your favorite piece of art?
- What is a well-known piece of art?
- How does it make you feel that you are God's most precious work of art?

### **Eighth Grade Adaptation**

Use the following questions for a more challenging discussion for eighth-grade youth:

- What does creating something do for the person who made it?
- Why does God create?
- Can you share an example of a piece of art you have made and how it reflects you?
- Why did you create that art piece?

## **SEND**

### **The Canticle of the Sun (15 min)**

Pass out "The Canticle of the Sun Prayer Card" handout to each youth. Explain that it is a song and prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi that praises God's creation. Designate a core member to lead the prayer by reading it aloud. Instruct the youth to read along on their prayer card.

## **Weekly Challenge (5 min)**

Invite the preselected core members to present the Weekly Challenge and Closing Prayer.

*Pray "The Canticle of the Sun" every day on the way to school.*

Dismiss the core members preassigned to parking lot safety.

Make announcements related to your program.

Dismiss the youth.



# HANDMADE

God the Creator

## GETTING STARTED

This Teaching Guide is a starting point for crafting a talk relevant to middle school youth. It provides bullet points of information and writing areas for presenter notes.

The presenter's preparation, prayer, and personalization of this outline will add the elements essential to delivering an impactful Proclaim.

## TEACHING GUIDE

### Created Things Require a Creator

- Every work of art – the Mona Lisa, the Sistine Chapel, “Single Ladies,” “The Dark Knight” – has an artist or creator behind it.
- All created things require a creator. Remember those origami hearts we made in the first Edge Night? We were origamists, and we created origami hearts. Likewise, all of creation is made by God, the Creator.
- Creation gives glory to the Creator.
- Glory means high renown or honor won by notable achievements.
- We give glory to creators all of the time: Academy Awards are given to excellent directors and actors, Grammys are given to excellent musicians, and famous works of art are on display in museums for all to see and enjoy.
- The excellence of the art, movie, or song point to the glory of their creator.
- Creations may also include hints that point back to the creator, like how a director may include themselves in the background of their movies or how a songwriter writes lyrics about circumstances from their life.
- God's creation reveals the Creator, God, and His glory. (CCC 279, 293 - 294, Isaiah 44:24)

Share an example from your life where you have experienced God's glory in nature. Describe the beauty, peace, wonder, and awe you experienced, and how it led you to know God as the Creator who created all things good. Take notes here:

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- God's creation reveals the Creator, God, and His glory. (CCC 279, 293-294, Isaiah 44:24)

## **The Trinity As Creator**

- Each Person of the Trinity participated in the creation of our world.

Project and read Genesis 1:1-2.

- God the Father was the one who spoke all things into being out of the void and darkness. (Genesis 1:1)
- “The Spirit of God” moved over the waters. (Genesis 1:2)
- And where is the Son? If we look at the Gospel of John, he tells us that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” and that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:1, 14)
- The Word God spoke at the beginning of the world is the same Person who became the “Word Made Flesh” — Jesus Christ.
- The Three Persons of the Trinity exist in an eternal exchange of love, and through creation, freely give life to all things – the sun, the stars, the Earth, plants, trees, the oceans, animals, and sea creatures – out of that love.

Project and read Genesis 1:1-25. Stop to emphasize what He created on what day and that it was “good.”

- On the first day, God created light and separated it from the darkness.
- On the second day, God created the sky and separated it from the waters below.
- On the third day, God created dry land and filled it with plants and trees.
- On the fourth day, God created the sun and moon to rule over the day and night.
- On the fifth day, God created land, sea, and sky creatures to fill the land and sea.
- Creation becomes more and more complex as the days go on.
- On the first, second, and third days, God created the environment. Then, on the fourth and fifth days, He filled those environments.
- But what God made on the sixth day is truly the summit of all His work.

## **God Created Man and Women Very Good**

Project and read Genesis 1:26-31. Emphasize the words “image and likeness” and “very good.”

- This creation is different. Humanity is made in the image and likeness of God.
- We are distinct from other creatures. We are “very good.”
- Humanity is set apart from and above all other creatures and is given the responsibility to be stewards of other created things.

- More than all of the rest of creation, we, human beings, are prized above everything because we are a reflection of the image of God.
- The image of God we were created in means we have dignity.
- Dignity means nobility, elevation of character, and worthiness. It means each and every one of us is worthy of great respect.
- We deserve to be treated with dignity because we have been created in the image and likeness of God.

Invite the youth to think of the piece of art they have created — the time, attention, care, that went into their creation. Ask them to imagine how God took time, attention, and care for creating them, as an artist creating a work of art.

- The creator is reflected in what they create. For example, the joys and suffering associated with love and loss are evident in the songs we listen to and reflect the songwriter's life story.
- Likewise, God created us, and we reflect Him.
- Our great dignity means that we must also have great respect for others.
- Every human being, no matter their age, gender, or abilities, is a “very good” part of God's creation.
- When we treat others with that in mind, we better reflect the image and likeness of the Trinity, who loves all parts of creation.
- The three Persons of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – exist in a profound relationship and exchange of love and created us so that we can share in that love.
- Creation is a gift to us, a free gift of love. We can enjoy creation and see God's love for us and know God's love for us in it.
- When we love others with the dignity they deserve and care for creation well, we live more fully in the love of the Trinity.

## NOTES

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## QUICK GLANCE

# GREEN

An Edge Issue Night on Envy and Comparison

## GOAL

This Edge Issue Night helps middle school youth identify and explore comparison and how it leads to the vice of envy. The virtue of charity is presented as a contradiction to envy, and practical tools are suggested to grow the virtue of charity and reduce jealousy.

## SCRIPTURE

Genesis 37:2-36, 45:1-15, Matthew 22:37-40, John 10:10, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 Peter 2:1-3

## CATECHISM

1822, 1825-26, 2536, 2538-2540

## RESOURCES

“Jealousy Doesn’t Look Good on You ... Or Anyone” (lifeteen.com)

“The Secret Weapon of a Teenage Slave” (lifeteen.com)

Kevin Timpe and Craig A. Boyd, “Virtues and Their Vices”

## GATHER

The youth play a game of decoding images and phrases to find a message. This game emphasizes how comparison often only shows part of the picture.

## PROCLAIM

The following are the main teaching points of the Proclaim:

- Envy is a vice expressed as sadness or contempt toward another’s goods and the immoderate desire to obtain those goods. Toxic and habitual comparison of ourselves to others can produce envy, a capital sin forbidden by the Ninth and Tenth Commandments.
- Charity is the theological virtue that counteracts envy. This virtue flows from God, who is Love Incarnate, and it allows us to love Him above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.
- Envy causes us to live in desperation and scarcity; love calls us to live abundantly in freedom.

## BREAK

Each small group prepares and performs a skit based on a given scenario highlighting envy and a more favorable response. The skits may be substituted with small group discussion and personal journaling using the prompts provided.

## SEND

The youth reflect on love and gratitude through a prayer activity.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

When you feel envy, stop and say a short prayer to ask for God’s blessing.

## PREP

# GREEN

An Edge Issue Night on Envy and Comparison

## PREP

Prepare a large stack of quartered sheets of paper for each small group.

Write a list of scenarios for the Break activity. Use the following examples:

- A classmate showed up to school bragging about tickets to a concert, the same concert you have been asking your parents to buy tickets for you.
- One of your teammates was named the MVP of your soccer team.
- You studied hard for your test and got a C; the person next to you got an A.
- One of the popular girls at school posted a video on TikTok that everyone is talking about, and it got hundreds of more likes than any of your videos.
- Your neighbors are going on vacation to Disneyworld, and you have always wanted to go, but your parents said it is too expensive.

## SETUP

Decorate the room with posters and images of items and accomplishments that could lead to envy, such as expensive shoes, brand-name clothes, awards, trophies, celebrities, or Olympic athletes. Lay out on a table miniature luxury cars and fake coins or dollar bills from a board game.

Play the “Mapp My Life” Spotify playlist as youth enter.

## SUPPLIES

Prepare the following supplies:

- G: Sheets of paper, about 10 per youth
- G: Pens, one for each youth
- B: Prepared scenario, one per small group
- S: Bible

## **CORE ASSIGNMENTS**

This youth minister worksheet provides writing space to detail core member assignments and notes specific to running this Edge Night.

Highlights:

- Explain the Gather and ensure each core member knows the rules of the game.

**Setup:**

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**Opening Prayer:**

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**Gather:**

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**Proclaim:**

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**Break:**

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**Send:**

Scripture Proclamation: 

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**Closing Prayer:**

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**Weekly Challenge:**

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**Parking Lot:**

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## **NOTES**

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## OUTLINE

# GREEN

An Edge Issue Night on Envy and Comparison

## GATHER

### Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth and introduce those who are there for the first time. Invite the preselected core member to begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the Edge Night topic, using the following as an example:

*Have you ever had a friend get something you have been saving for? You wish your parents would just buy you what you want. You want to be happy for your friend, but you struggle with feelings of anger and jealousy. During this Edge Night, we will discuss our shared experience of envy and comparison and how we can work through these feelings to be grateful for what we have and be happy for the blessings others receive.*

### Paper Telephone (15 min)

Divide the youth into groups of eight to ten people and assign one core member to sit with each group.

1. Instruct the small groups to sit in a circle. Provide each youth with a stack of paper. The stack will equal the number of people in their small group.
2. Instruct half the group to begin their stack by drawing a simple picture. The group's other half will begin their stack by writing a word, sentence, or phrase.
3. Instruct the group to pass their stack to the left. When a youth receives a new stack, they can move the word or drawing to the bottom and use the blank paper at the top to decode the image or word they saw. If they read a word, they can draw a picture; if they see a picture, they can write a word.
4. Once everyone has received their original stack, allow an opportunity for the youth to look over their original stack for a humorous result.

## PROCLAIM

### “Green” Teaching Reflection (10 min)

The teaching can be found on pages 12 to 17. The following are the main points covered in the teaching:

- Envy is a vice expressed as sadness or contempt toward another's goods and the immoderate desire to obtain those goods. Toxic and habitual comparison of ourselves to others can produce envy, a capital sin forbidden by the Ninth and Tenth Commandments.
- Charity is the theological virtue that counteracts envy. This virtue flows from God, who is Love Incarnate, and it allows us to love Him above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.
- Envy causes us to live in desperation and scarcity; love calls us to live abundantly in freedom.

## BREAK

### Envy vs. Charity (30 min)

Small groups prepare skits that act out the prepared scenarios highlighting envy and charity. Allow ten minutes for small groups to prepare two versions of their scenes. The first round presents an envious scene. In the second round, the scene is presented with a charitable or loving response.

### Alternate Break: Small Group Discussion (20 min)

Use the following questions to foster a discussion within the small group:

- Whip Around Question: If you were stuck indoors on a rainy day and could choose a store to spend the day in, what store would you choose?
- What makes middle schoolers jealous?
- What are some negative consequences of envy?
- Name three things you are grateful for.
- How do you feel when someone encourages you?
- What are some ways we can show charity towards others instead of envy?



## **Eighth-Grade Adaptation**

Use the following questions for a more challenging discussion for eighth-grade youth:

- When do you feel envy most often? What do you do in those situations?
- Are there any situations you can remove yourself from so you don't feel envy as intensely?
- What challenges may you experience as you try to practice charity despite feelings of envy?
- What are some of the things that you can do at school to practice this type of charity?
- Who are role models in your life who live lovingly?

### **Journaling (10 min)**

Use the following prompts to guide the youth through a journaling exercise. Read the question and allow two minutes of silence for the youth to journal.

- What types of things do you wish you were not envious of?
- What types of feelings do you experience when you feel envy? Sadness? Anger?
- Ask Jesus in your own words to help you with these moments of envy.
- Take a moment to reflect on something kind you can do for a person you feel envious of and write it down.
- How can you work to have a greater spirit of gratitude for what you have?

## **SEND**

### **Charity Lived Out (10 min)**

Invite the youth to find a posture of prayer that is comfortable for them, close their eyes, and listen to the scripture passage. The same passage will be read three different times, with another reflection question to follow.

Invite the preselected core member to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

*When have you experienced this kind of love? Think of a person who has been kind to you. How did they make you feel?*

Reread 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

*Saint Paul lists several virtues. Which do you relate to? Are you patient? Are you kind? Or do you tend to be short-tempered? Think about where you fit into this Scripture.*

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 a third time.

*Was there a part in this passage that caught your attention? Why did it draw your attention?*

Conclude with the following prayer:

*Lord Jesus, we thank you for your love and mercy. We ask you to give us the virtue of courage to choose charity toward others. You know what virtues we need to grow as disciples; we ask you to help us grow in these virtues so we can become great saints. Amen.*

### **Weekly Challenge (5 min)**

Invite the preselected core members to present the Weekly Challenge and Closing Prayer.

*When you feel envy, stop and say a short prayer to ask for God's blessing.*

Dismiss the core members preassigned to parking lot safety.

Make announcements.

Dismiss the youth.

## PROCLAIM

# GREEN

An Edge Issue Night on Envy and Comparison

## GETTING STARTED

This Teaching Guide is a starting point for crafting a talk relevant to middle school youth. It provides bullet points of information and writing areas for presenter notes.

Going Deeper call-out boxes offer further insights to consider.

The presenter's preparation, prayer, and personalization of this outline will add the elements essential to delivering an impactful Proclaim.

## Teaching Guide (10 Min)

### Envy and Comparison

- There was a famous emperor who lived a privileged and spoiled life. He had everything he needed, including a palace, servants, an extensive wardrobe, and anything he wanted to eat, yet he seemed to need more. One of his closest advisors was extremely envious of him and sought to take over his kingdom. The emperor, tired of his advisor's jealousy, suddenly fired her. The former advisor, upset that she had been fired, became overcome by her jealous feelings and sought revenge. To get back at the emperor, she attempted to poison him but accidentally turned him into a llama creating a bigger problem.
- This story is from the movie, "The Emperor's New Groove," and it helps illustrate envy, a feeling of discontent at the possessions or successes of others.
- When we see what others have, we may experience anger or sadness when we realize we do not possess what they have.
- Feelings of envy become sinful when we allow ourselves to be overcome by them and wish harm on another person. For example, when the emperor's advisor was so envious and angry, she plotted to poison the emperor.

- God has given us the Ninth and Tenth Commandments to help us overcome envy.
- The ninth commandment states that we should not covet our neighbor's wife.
- The tenth commandment states that we should not covet our neighbor's goods.
- These commandments remind us to be grateful for what we have so as not to be overcome with a desire for things that do not belong to us or to amass earthly possessions without limit.

Ask the youth for examples or situations that make middle schoolers envious.

- All of us have compared ourselves to others and experience envy. There is a story in the Bible that will help us understand how comparison and envy can lead us to sin against charity.

Read Genesis 37:3-5.

- Joseph was hated by his brothers because of the special relationship he had with their father.
- Their envy led them to sell Joseph into slavery and deceive their father into believing that Joseph had been killed.
- Toxic and habitual comparisons of ourselves to others can produce envy.
- Envy can cause us to be happy when someone who has been successful or has something we desire experiences hardship. We may also become angry when something good happens to this person (CCC 2539)
- While serving Pharaoh, Joseph organized the collection of enough food to provide for the people during a terrible famine. He was praised for his accomplishment, saving many people, including Joseph's brothers.
- When reunited, Joseph greeted his brothers with kindness instead of reacting vengefully. He told about all the good God had done through him. (Genesis 45:1-15)

Share about a moment in your life when comparisons led you to envy. Make some notes about what you want to share.

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- Comparison and envy not only hurt us but also hurt others.
- This comparison often makes us feel discouraged and sad.
- Have you ever had an experience where you were envious of something another person had, and it consumed your thoughts? If we let envy take over our thoughts, it can lead us to hurt others by showing anger or speaking badly about others.
- Our God is a good and generous Father. He has blessings for each of His children and will not run out of good gifts to share with each of us.
- God wants us to be grateful for what we have and rejoice at the successes and good fortune of others.
- Spiritually mature people realize that there is enough goodness in the world for many people and that one person's success does not mean personal loss.

### Going Deeper

Invite the youth to reflect on a moment when they have been envious of someone else. Encourage them to think about their experience and how it made them feel.

### Going Deeper

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3. One of the places where we may feel envious is social media. When we scroll through social media and see our friends' lives, we may begin to think their lives are perfect. It can be easy to compare ourselves to others when we only see a small snapshot of their lives.

### Perception

- Our perception of what others have is warped by the little information we see, just as the pictures and messages were warped and changed by our perception during the Paper Telephone Gather game.
- Someone with the newest iPhone model might also need help with their grades.
- Another person might have hundreds of followers on social media but might feel like they have only a few close friends with whom they can share their lives.
- Knowing that what we see about other people's lives may not be the whole truth should help us shift away from comparing ourselves to others.
- When we spend our time comparing ourselves to other people, it causes us to take on a mentality of scarcity. In other words, we only see what we lack instead of being grateful for what we do have.
- When we focus on all the things we don't have and haven't accomplished, we won't be able to enjoy the joys of the present moment.
- It can be so tiring and devastating when we are consumed by comparing our lives to those of others.

### Freedom in Christ

- Jesus desires for us to experience happiness and joy. He invites us to be content and grateful for what we have and to see everything as a gift from God.
- We can be grateful for the talents we have and for the accomplishments we have achieved.

- Jesus also invites us to live the virtue of charity.
- Charity is the theological virtue that allows us to love God above everything else and love our neighbors in the same way we want to be loved. (CCC 1822)
- When we love God above all things and know He loves us, we don't need other things to make us happy or fulfilled.
- When we are secure in God's love, we don't need the most expensive clothes or to be the most successful basketball player.
- Even though feelings of envy can be challenging to overcome, we have a virtue to strengthen us and redirect our thoughts.
- When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we can experience joy when they succeed.
- As we grow in this virtue, our hearts will expand so that we not only stop feeling envious but begin to rejoice in the good things that happen to others. (CCC 2540)

Ask the youth to share examples of what it can sound like to rejoice over someone else's accomplishment.

### **Going Deeper**

Invite the youth to brainstorm a few ways to shift their thoughts when they begin to feel envy. For example, when they start to feel envious, they can thank God for this person and begin to notice their virtues.

- The Lord gives us the grace to grow in virtue. He will help us to be happy for others' successes.
- When we start to desire the good of others, we will experience freedom. This means that seeing other people's successes will no longer bother us.
- When we practice charity, we must remember that the person we envy deserves our love.
- Practicing charity and gratitude for our blessings will help reduce the envious or anxious feelings we may experience surrounding what we lack.
- God loves to bestow blessings upon us and waits for us to ask

Him for what we want. He knows exactly what we need.

- We can depend on God's goodness and generosity to help us.



**LIFE TEEN**

Leading Teens Closer to Christ  
[www.LifeTeen.com](http://www.LifeTeen.com)

## QUICK GLANCE

# IF YOU AIN'T FIRST, YOU'RE LAST

An Edge Social Night

## GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the youth to have fun, get to know each other, and compete in relay-style games.

## RESOURCES

### Music

Spotify: "LT - Gather Music" ([spotify:profile:lifeteen](https://open.spotify.com/profile/lifeteen))

Spotify: "LT - Break Music" ([spotify:profile:lifeteen](https://open.spotify.com/profile/lifeteen))

Spotify: "LT - Send Music" ([spotify:profile:lifeteen](https://open.spotify.com/profile/lifeteen))

## GATHER

Groups scramble to find hidden number stickers around the room. The first team to assemble their group with correct sequential numbers wins the warmup and kickstarts the competition.

## PROCLAIM + BREAK

Five unique relay-style games, both mental and physical, test each team's cooperation and quick thinking. They involve popping balloons, sack racing, charades, word puzzles, and a chariot race.

## SEND

Groups gather for the final award ceremony. Winners mount their respective podiums, celebrating their achievements. Everyone's effort is recognized and appreciated, culminating with a brief closing prayer.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Help someone who is "last" in some way — the last to finish a task, the latest in line at school, or someone who simply feels left behind. Remember, kindness can make a world of difference.

## PREP

# IF YOU AIN'T FIRST, YOU'RE LAST

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## PREP

Read through the entire Edge Night and begin acquiring the supplies needed.

Create charade cards for each group, using the following as prompts as suggestions:

- Flying superhero
- Walking on the moon
- Eating spaghetti
- Roaring like a lion
- Breaking plates
- Ballet dancing
- Playing air guitar
- Doing homework on the computer
- Making a TikTok
- Cooking a fancy dinner
- Scuba diving
- Mowing the lawn
- Weightlifting at the gym
- Juggling flaming swords
- Watching the sunset
- Painting a picture
- Playing tennis
- Riding a horse
- Building a sandcastle
- Jumping on a trampoline

## SETUP

Provide enough seating for all participants using tables and chairs.

Create an “Olympics” theme by decorating with vibrant colors. Create a bold “Start” line in tape on the floor at the entrance of the meeting space. At the opposite end of the room, hang a festive “Finish” banner. Hang colored hula hoops on the wall to create the Olympics logo. Put a battery-operated candle in a prominent place to represent the “Olympic torch.”

Use colored tape or chalk to draw winding “race tracks” on the floor, crisscrossing and looping for an exciting visual effect. To elevate the atmosphere, hang checkered flags and pennants from the ceiling and across the walls. Set up a podium for the

winners in one corner of the room. This could be as simple as sturdy stacked boxes draped with gold, silver, and bronze cloth. Consider creating mini race car track centerpieces for table decorations, complete with small toy cars.

Print large numbers on stickers to represent competitor hip numbers worn by track athletes. These should be double digits or triple digits, as long as you create several matching numbers to create a small group. For example, if your group will be divided into five groups of 8 people, create five sets of eight matching numbers. Prepare these beforehand and hide them around the room before the youth arrive. These will be used for the Gather game.

Arrange chairs 15 feet from a marked starting line and place balloons on each chair. Be sure to blow up at least one balloon per teen. Stage the balloons out of sight until they are needed for the Balloon Pop Relay.

Designate an area for the Sack Race Relay and stage obstacles like cones or soft toys to use during the race.

Choose a safe surface for the Chariot Races, such as a carpeted floor. Ensure the course is clear of any objects that could pose a tripping hazard. Prepare a scooter board and stick horse for each group.

## SUPPLIES

- Checkered flags
- Colorful pennants
- Colored tape or chalk
- Cloth for the podium
- Stacked boxes
- Mini race car tracks
- Toy cars
- Posters with quotes
- Red, white, and black balloons
- Stickers with numbers
- Chairs
- King size pillowcases, one per small group
- Cones or soft toys (for obstacles)
- Charade cards
- Paper, one sheet for each group
- Pen, one for each group
- Scooter board, one for each group
- Stick horse, one for each group
- Tables

## CORE ASSIGNMENTS

This youth minister worksheet provides writing space to detail core member assignments and notes on running this Edge Night.

### Setup:

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### Opening Prayer:

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### Assigned to Small Group Teams:

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**Balloon Pop Relay Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Relay Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sack Race Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Charade Relay Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chariot Races Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Closing Prayer:

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### Weekly Challenge:

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### Parking Lot:

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## NOTES

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## OUTLINE

# IF YOU AIN'T FIRST, YOU'RE LAST

An Edge Social Night

## GATHER

### Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth and introduce those who are there for the first time. Invite the preselected core member to begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the Edge Night topic, using the following as an example:

*Welcome, racers, to an exciting, fast, and fun evening! You're about to embark on thrilling relay races that will challenge your mind and body. As you join forces with your teammates, remember that every second counts. So, buckle up, get ready, and always remember: If you aren't first, you're last!*

### Number Hunt (10 min)

1. As the youth arrive, explain that they are going on a “number hunt.” The goal is to find a racing number.
2. Once they find a number, they are to wear one and join the other youth who found the same number. This activity will help them create a group with people with the same number.
3. Once everyone has found racing numbers and formed their groups, explain that they will be competing against one another in physical and mental games that require them to act and think fast. Explain to the youth that they will receive points for coming in first, second, or third in each game and that the group with the most post-points wins at the end of the night.

## PROCLAIM + BREAK

### Everything is a Race (50 min)

The Proclaim and Break section of the Edge Night is divided into

five ten-minute games.

#### Balloon Pop Relay

1. Divide the youth into groups and have them line up at the starting line.
2. Place a chair for each team about 15 feet from the starting line. On each chair, place a balloon.
3. On “Go,” the first person in line from each group runs to the chair and attempts to pop the balloon by sitting on it.
4. Once the balloon is popped, they return and tag the next player.
5. If a youth fails to pop the balloon within 10 seconds, they must do a ‘penalty’ activity (like five jumping jacks or a funny dance) before they can try again. This will add an element of fun and surprise.
6. The first team to pop all their balloons and return to the start line wins the game.

#### Word Relay

1. Give each group a sheet of paper and a pen.
2. Project a three-minute timer.
3. The first youth writes a word and passes the paper to the next youth.
4. The second youth must write a new word underneath the first word, but it must start with the last letter of the previous word.
5. Repeat this process until all group members have written a word.
6. The group that writes the most valid words in 3 minutes wins the game.

At the end of each of the following two games, points will be awarded to the groups in the following manner:

- First place: 5 points
- Second place: 3 points
- Third place: 2 points

### Sack Race

1. At the starting line, each group lines up with one youth standing inside a sack that comes up to their waist.
2. At the sound of the whistle, the youth must hop to a designated turn-around point and then return to the starting line.
3. Place some fun obstacles along the race track (like cones or soft toys) that the youth must navigate while hopping. This will increase the challenge and fun factor of the game.
4. Once they return to the starting line, the next youth in the group gets into the sack and repeats the process.
5. The first group to finish the relay wins the game.

### Charade Relay

1. Divide the groups into their designated sections and project a five-minute timer.
2. Have core members monitor each group, ensure the youth follow the rules, and confirm correct answers.
3. The first youth in each group runs up to pick a charade card and acts out the prompt on the card for their group. Remind the youth that they cannot speak.
4. The group has to guess the action/situation correctly before the youth can run back to their group and tag the next player can go.
5. Remind the group that every youth must go at least once.
6. The group with the correct answers (or the first team to finish guessing all their cards) wins the game.

At the end of the final game, points will be awarded to the groups in the following manner:

- First place: 10 points
- Second place: 6 points
- Third place: 4 points

### Chariot Races

1. Each group will select three people. Select one person to sit on the scooter board and hold the stick horse in the front. This will be their “chariot.”

2. The other two participants, or “charioteers,” will stand on either side of the chariot.
3. On the count of three, the charioteers will push their chariot along the pre-determined race course.
4. The race continues until one team crosses the finish line with their chariot.

## **SEND**

### **Award Ceremony (10 min)**

Calculate the total group points. Gather the youth in the decorated podium area. Start with acknowledging all the participants, appreciating their hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Announce the third-place team. Ask them to step onto the bronze podium and provide them with their medals or certificates. Applaud their effort and congratulate them. Continue with the second-place team, inviting them to the silver podium. Provide them with their medals or certificates. Congratulate them and applaud their effort. Finally, announce the first-place team. Invite them onto the gold podium, provide their medals or certificates, and give them loud applause. Remind everyone that they did a fantastic job, regardless of the position.

Conclude the Edge Night with the following prayer:

*Lord, we thank you for this fun-filled day of camaraderie, competition, and unity. We are grateful for our friends, efforts, and lessons learned today. As we leave here, let us carry the spirit of fair play and teamwork into our everyday lives. Amen.*

### **Weekly Challenge (5 min)**

Invite the preselected core members to present the Weekly Challenge and Closing Prayer.

*Help someone who is “last” in some way — the last to finish a task, the latest in line at school, or someone who simply feels left behind. Remember, kindness can make a world of difference.*

Dismiss the youth.



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**Renewal Notice**  
Pentecost Sunday

**FIRST READING**

Acts 2:1-11

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25

**GOSPEL**

John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

**KEY WORDS**

Reception, Power, Plentitude, Ability, Peace, Proclamation

**KEY THEMES**

1. Languages and gifts may differ, but the Father (whom we serve) and His Spirit (who dwells in us) remain the same.
2. As we disciple others, Christ is at work within us. He will never leave us.
3. The Holy Spirit's job is to make us holy.
4. The Holy Spirit motivates us to move forward, not backward.

**The Ascent**

***Welcome and Introduction (5 min)***

Welcome all of the teens to the discipleship group and invite them to share one "high point" and one "low point" from their week. If there are new teens, invite them to introduce themselves.

***A Time to Renew (10 min)***

Open the session with a time that encourages the teens to enjoy and/or cultivate the space the *Summit* group meets in regularly. Some examples include cleaning out or tidying up the room, dusting the church, or weeding the parish's garden. If the weather allows, consider holding the *Summit* session outside so the teens can enjoy nature.

**Lectio**

***Opening Prayer***

***Our Voice (10 min)***

Use the following questions to prepare the group for the topic of the session:



- *If you began the session “renewing” one aspect of the parish, ask the teens what their experience of that activity was.*
- What does it mean to “renew the face of the earth”?
- How do you experience renewal in your own life? What do you do when you need to be refreshed or rejuvenated?

### ***Reflection: Renewal Notice (5 min)***

Play the *Summit* reflection video, “Renewal Notice,” found online at [lifeteen.com](http://lifeteen.com). Use this video to provide a thematic overview to the session before entering into God’s Word.

### ***God’s Voice (5 min)***

Read Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 aloud and then invite a teen to read the passage aloud. Encourage the teens to actively listen. After the second read through, invite the teens to open their Bibles and silently read the passage a third time. Allow time to pause and reflect between read-throughs.

## **Meditatio**

### ***Reflecting on God’s Voice (10 min)***

Invite the teens to take a few minutes to silently reflect and journal on the following question:

- A garden needs weeding to flourish, and sometimes our souls need to be renewed as well. Do you feel as though your soul is cared for and yielding good fruit, or is it in need of renewal? What areas of your life are in need of renewal?

## **Oratio**

### ***Discussing God’s Voice (30 min)***

Following the silent reflection, guide the teens in a time of discussion. The following questions are a great starting point for the discussion, but be open to where the Holy Spirit may guide it:

- Have you ever experienced a moment of renewal in your life? What was that experience like? How did it make a difference in your life?
- The psalmist speaks of God sending down His Holy Spirit to renew the face of the Earth. What is your relationship like with the Holy Spirit?
- How might welcoming the Holy Spirit into your life renew you and, in turn, those closest to you?
- In the second reading, St. Paul talked about how there are many different gifts but one Spirit. Is there a specific gift of the Holy Spirit you would like more of in your life? Why would you like that specific gift?
- How do you care for and use the gifts God has given you? Do you use your gifts to their fullest potential?
- Is it easy or difficult to care for and use the gifts God has given you? Why?

- How can you better care for and use your gifts?

## Contemplatio

### *Alive and Active (10 min)*

As a group, pray the *Canticle from the Book of Daniel*, which can be found below. Before praying, briefly mention the line from the second reading, “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” Remind the teens that even if they do not see or feel Him, the Holy Spirit is very much alive.

### *Closing Challenge*

Challenge the teens to pray this simple prayer every morning: “*Holy Spirit, be with me today in every moment. Protect the areas of my life that are yielding fruit and renew the areas of my life that are not. Amen.*” Invite the teens to ask themselves this question every night: *What area of my life has the Holy Spirit renewed today?*

## LET ALL CREATURES PRAISE THE LORD

CANTICLE FROM DANIEL 3:57-88, 56

**LEADER:**

**Sing a hymn of praise to our God;  
praise him above all forever.**

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord.

You heavens, bless the Lord.

All you waters above the heavens,  
bless the Lord.

All you hosts of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Sun and moon, bless the Lord.

Stars of heaven, bless the Lord.

**GROUP:**

Every shower and dew, bless the Lord.

All you winds, bless the Lord.

Fire and heat, bless the Lord.

Cold and chill, bless the Lord.

Dew and rain, bless the Lord.

Frost and chill, bless the Lord.

Ice and snow, bless the Lord.

Nights and days, bless the Lord.

Light and darkness, bless the Lord.

Lightning and clouds, bless the Lord.

**LEADER:**

Let the earth bless the Lord.

Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Mountains and hills, bless the Lord.

Everything growing from the earth,  
bless the Lord.

You springs, bless the Lord.

**GROUP:**

Seas and rivers, bless the Lord.

You dolphins and all water creatures,  
bless the Lord.

All you birds of the air, bless the Lord.

All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord.

You sons of men, bless the Lord.

**LEADER:**

O Israel, bless the Lord.

Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord.

Holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord.

Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord.

Praise and exalt him about all forever.

**GROUP:**

Let us bless the Father, and the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.

Let us praise and exalt him about all  
forever.

Blessed are you, Lord, in the firmament  
of heaven.

Praiseworthy and glorious and exalted  
above all forever.

**Sing a hymn of praise to our God;  
praise him above all forever.**

Amen.

## SONG SUGGESTIONS

### Gathering

**Come, Holy Ghost** (arr. Bolduc) [edbolducmusic.com]  
**Come, Holy Spirit** (Thompson) [giamusic.com]  
**Holy Spirit Come Now** (Manibusan) [ocp.org, CCLI #5358948]  
**Let the Weight of Your Glory Fall** (Merkel) [CCLI #2790475]  
**Send Down The Fire** (Haugen) [giamusic.com]

### Responsorial Psalm

**Lord, Send Out Your Spirit** (Angrisano) [ocp.org, Spirit & Psalm]  
**Lord, Send Out Your Spirit** (Canedo) [ocp.org]  
**Lord, Send Out Your Spirit** (Colson) [ocp.org]

### Sequence

**Pentecost Sequence** (Bolduc) [giamusic.com]  
**Veni Sancte Spiritus** (Colson) [giamusic.com]

### Preparation

**Altar of Hope, Be Still** (Hess) [giamusic.com]  
**Awakening** (Tomlin) [CCLI #5677399]  
**Breathe on Me** (Waller, Adkins) [CCLI #4870111]  
**Breathe On Me, O Breath of God** (Bolduc) [giamusic.com]  
**Come Holy Spirit** (Mares) [davidmaresmusic.com]  
**Rest On Us** (Lake, Smith, Bashta, Jay, White, Brown) [CCLI #7126736]

### Communion

**Behold, the Lamb of God** (Maher) [ocp.org, CCLI #4669755]  
**O Salutaris Hostia, O Saving Lamb** (Booth) [ocp.org, CCLI #5771611]  
**Taste and See** (Moore) [ocp.org]  
**The Feast Meant For Everyone** (Booth, Hart) [ocp.org, CCLI #7228943]  
**We Are Many Parts** (Haugen) [giamusic.com]

### Second Communion

**Behold, Then Sings My Soul** (Houston) [CCLI #7068430]  
**Breathe On Us** (Cash, Jobe) [CCLI #7007817]  
**Come Down, O Love Divine** (Da Siena, Littledale, Ortega) [CCLI #6128672]  
**Fall Afresh** (Riddle) [CCLI #6032768]  
**Fire Fall Down** (Crocker) [CCLI #4705200]  
**Purify My Heart, Refiner's Fire** (Doerksen) [CCLI #426298]



**Sending Forth**

**Burning In My Soul** (Yunker, Maher, Reeves, Carson) [CCLI #6517874]

**Love Unfolding** (Blakesley) [ocp.org, CCLI #5403570]

**Overflow** (Maher) [ocp.org, CCLI #4613763]

**Send Your Glory Down** (Booth, Thomson) [ocp.org, CCLI #5917303]

**Set a Fire** (Reagan) [CCLI #5911299]

**Soul on Fire** (Brown, Carr, Powell, Lee, Maher, Anderson) [CCLI #7032679]

**Your Grace Is Enough** (Maher) [ocp.org, CCLI #4477026]