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|  | * **12** | | |
|  | **Large Group:**  **Looking Back As We Step Ahead** | | |
| What’s the Point? | We are back after a Christmas break and so we need to focus the teens. We have spoken about many things and we have many to go but today we will do a gathering exercise to remind them of what we have discussed and where we are going. | | |
| **Background Information** | ***Reference***   * *CCC: ¶* *2241, 2433* * NAB : *Tobit* 4: 7-8; *Prov* 31: 8-9; *Mt* 25: 35-40; *Deut* 10:17-19; *Deut* 24:14-15; *Deut* 26:5-13; *Lev* 19 (esp. 33-34); *Ex* 23:9;   This class will try to get the teens thinking about a cause they can get behind. Using the topics we have discussed so far, they will be able to choose one and do some brainstorming about concrete ways to approach the problem. Using the two feet of social justice figure, they will try to develop some immediate actions and some long-term solutions to some of the topics we have already discussed, and perhaps some that we will not get a chance to cover.  First, like the STOP sign from year three, we need to give them some tools for analysis and we can point to that for the teens who have been introduced to the idea. All of them have heard the ART concept so we should remind them of that as well. This will help to re-inforce the faith-in-action circle:  *Awareness*: Is there a problem?  *Analysis*: What is the nature of the problem?  *Action*: What can we do to help and what do we need to change?  Which leads us to a deeper awareness of the problem, and possibly better solutions. The thing they must understand is that they have to start somewhere. As the saying goes: “If something is worth doing, it’s worth doing badly.” Even if the first solution is insufficient, it is worth doing because something needs to be done. But we do not walk away from a problem thinking it is solved, or throw up our hands at failures thinking the problem can never be solved. What the teens need to see is that there is often not a ‘perfect solution’ to a problem, but if we work for God and not ourselves, it is a road to righting the injustices we see.  They should also see that is there never a one-size-fits-all solution to many problems. If that were true many would have been solved years ago. As many saints have shown us, most recently saints like St. John the XXIII, and St. John Paul II, our work is in the moment and all the work we do may never come to fruition in our lifetimes, but that we have seen Jesus in the poor and marginalized and we did something about it.  That said, there are some good and tried solutions out there that merely need to be consistently implemented. Evil is not a one-and-done affair either. Dictators rise and fall thinking the same thing – that this time it will work; bankers and stockbrokers, business execs and politicians, priests and preachers, you and me…you name it – there is nothing new under the sun.  In the end our efforts may see meaningless or futile, but we have to start somewhere and often it is just being aware of problems and being aware of our brothers and sisters in need, often sitting right next to us.  Getting input from every teen is important. Many have insight from personal experience. Things like mental illness, poverty, lack of respect, prejudice…our teens see this all around them if not in their own lives. Tapping into these experiences builds empathy. Empathy and compassions are the hallmarks of Jesus’ ministry. They are the root of his love and mercy and so should be of ours as well. | | |
| Materials Needed | * Large poster or paper with a topic at top and two large feet drawn on each. * Markers | | |
| **Attention Grabber** | **None.** | | |
| **Outline** | **Prayer**: | *Mt 25:31-46.* | |
| **Presentation**: | *Instructions.* | |
| **Activity**: | *Large Group* | |
| **Table Discussion**: | *Questions*. | |
| **Post Discussion:** | *None* | |
| **Closing Prayer**: | *Group Prayer/Petitions.* | |
| **Prayer** | **(5 min)** | | |
| **Introductory Prayer:**    ***Matthew 25:31-46***  *1* | | |
| **Pre-discussion Presentation** | (10 min) | | |
|  | Invite the teens to look around the room at the posters hanging up. Point out each category, relating that each is a topic we have covered so far during the year. Ask them to take a moment and decide which one interests them the most and then divide up and move to each poster site. If one or more is too crowded, ask them a second time to consider another topic.  After considering the questions below for each problem, come up with an overall analysis/assessment of the problem.  Now have them sit down and as a group try to come up with possible individual actions and social actions they could do in order to have some effect on the topic. | | |
| **Table Talk** | Group Questions (15 min) | | |
| 1. What makes this a social justice problem? 2. What are the visible effects of this problem? 3. What are the unseen effects of this problem? 4. What is your first reaction to this problem? 5. What individual attitudes contribute to or exacerbate this problem? 6. What individual actions can contribute to a solution> 7. What societal attitudes or institutions contribute to or exacerbate this problem? 8. What social actions can contribute to a solution? | | |
| **Post-discussion Presentation** | (15-min) | | |
|  | Now is the time for each group to present their ideas. This will also be the time for ‘public comment’ on these ideas.  Invite each group to present their posters and the reasons they came to the conclusions they did.  After they are done presenting invite questions and comments from the whole group and allow them to answer these critiques. | | |
| Closing | **Prayer (5 min).** | | |
|  | Group Prayer. | | |
| Reminder | **\*\*\*\* REMEMBER IMPORTANCE OF RECORDING ATTENDANCE!!** This is a legal document! Please, write down on your attendance sheet the name of any teen at your table, whether they are on your roll or not. | |
| Attachments | **Below:**   * *None* | |

Poster example:

Racism

Problem:

Causes:

Social Solutions

Charitable Works