



DIVINE APPOINTMENT

SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

CATECHISM

1420 - 1421

1443 - 1446

1468 - 1470

1499

1520 - 1523

YOUCAT

224

226 - 228

233

239

243 - 245

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:17

Matthew 8:17

Matthew 9:27 -31

Matthew 10:8

Matthew 25:40

Mark 2:1 -12

Mark 16:17 -18

John 11:38 -44

John 20:21 -23

James 5:14

KEY CONCEPTS

GOAL OF THIS NIGHT

The goal of this night is for the middle school youth to come to a greater understanding of what the Sacraments of Healing are and why they are so important. Not only will they learn how each Sacrament is administered, they will also understand the power of Jesus as the Divine Physician and the inner workings of grace in these Sacraments.

ABOUT THIS NIGHT

This Edge Night focuses on the two Sacraments Healing — Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. Jesus desires to heal us both physically and spiritually, and He communicates this to us through these Sacraments.

The night begins with a game involving soap bowling. The Proclaim focuses on understanding the two Sacraments of Healing and God's desire to be our Divine Physician. In small groups, the middle school youth will discuss the talk and write letters to parishioners who are sick or dying. The night will end with a funny skit and a recap of the night with encouragement for the youth to take time for the Sacraments of Healing, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Before The Night

Talk to your parish staff and get the names of any parishioners who are sick or dying and have requested prayers. The youth will be writing cards of encouragement for them in the midst of their suffering during their Break activity. Ask parents to donate blank cards and envelopes for this activity. Also, create the prayer cards to hand out at the end of the night with the times for Reconciliation at your parish.

PARENTAL NOTICE

God desires to heal us all physically and spiritually. The image of Jesus Christ as the Divine Physician reminds us of His love and desire to heal us. This week at Edge we looked at the Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. These two Sacraments grant us grace to live fully in God's love, rooting us more firmly in His loving mercy. Here are some questions to discuss with your youth:

- If Jesus desires to heal us, how is He able to do this? Which Sacraments heal us? How?
- When should we plan to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family at the parish?
(Make sure to give the parents the times for Reconciliation at your parish.)

ENVIRONMENT

Using a few chairs and a desk set up the room too look like a waiting room at a doctor's office. Have some tables with magazines and maybe a few fake plants.

GATHER

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(5 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 for the first time and present a brief overview of the session.

SOAP BOWLING

(10 min)

At the front of the room set up a tarp that will act as the bowling lane for this game. At the far end of the tarp set up dish soap bottles like bowling pins. Put four bottles of soap next to each other in a row; directly in front of this row of bottles make a row with three soap bottles, then a row of two in front of that, then one soap bottle in the very front of the formation. It should be the shape of a triangle. Leave a few feet of tarp behind the soap bottles so if they are knocked back soap will not get on the carpet. At the opposite end of the tarp mark off a line for the youth to not pass when bowling. Also fill a large bucket with water and place it at the start line of the bowling alley.

To make the bowling ball cut up six sponges lengthwise into three strips. Make six stacks of three strips of sponge. Tie the sponge stacks together by wrapping twine or string across the middle of the sponges. Submerge the sponge in the large bucket of water before each youth attempts to bowl.

To play, call up three youth to compete. Give them each two chances to knock down as many soap bottles as possible. Whoever knocks over the most soap bottles wins; make sure to give them a small prize or allow them to stay and play again in the next round. Play as many rounds of this as possible as time permits.

PRODUCT PACKAGING

(10 min)

Break the youth into their small groups. Give each group construction paper and some markers. Instruct them to create a poster/advertisement for a new up and coming healing product. They should name their product and be clear as to what it does and is used for.

Come back into a large group and have each small group present their new product.

WHAT IS HEALING?

(5 min)

If possible play the video from Sermon Spice called “Kids on Healing.” If you are not able to play this video ask the youth what they think healing is. Spend some time calling on various youth to get different answers.

PROCLAIM

"DIVINE APPOINTMENT" TEACHING

(15 min)

Scripture Proclamation

Matthew 2:17

Sometimes when we think of healing, we think of scrapes, bruises, a sprain, or maybe even a broken bone. There is certainly the physical side of healing when we have wounds or cuts. But there is so much more to healing than simply putting Band-Aids or casts on broken arms. There is a whole different level of healing that Jesus Christ desires to bring to each of us.

In the Church, we have two Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. These Sacraments work in different ways to bring about healing on both the physical and spiritual level. But where does this healing power come from? Where can we find it?

HEALING IN SCRIPTURE

The Scriptures are filled with many incredible and miraculous accounts of physical and spiritual healings. For example, in the Gospels we hear about Jesus healing a paralytic man (Mark 2:1-12). He also heals two blind men (Matthew 9:27-31), and in the Gospel of John He brings a man back to life (11:38-44). Jesus' healing power is so great that He has power over death! Christ reveals this power over death most vividly in His own death and resurrection, showing that there is nothing more powerful than Himself. Jesus loves us so much that He not only wants to heal us physically, but He also wants to heal us spiritually. The greatest work of Christ was not to heal the paralyzed people (although He did), but rather to heal people of their sins and bring their souls back to life. Jesus' greatest work was that of forgiveness, and often after people were freed from their sins physical healing also occurred. As the YouCat says, "Jesus himself forgave the sins of many individuals; it was more important to him than working miracles. He regarded this as a great sign of the dawning of the kingdom of God, in which all wounds are healed and all tears wiped away" (227).

Mark 2:1 -12

Matthew 9:27 -31

Matthew 11:38 -44

Just like Jesus healed and forgave the people He met in the Gospels, He also desires to heal and forgive each of us. Jesus calls us to come to Him with all of our pain, wounds, and sin in order to be healed. But how does this healing happen today, 2,000 years after Christ walked this earth? Where do we find this type of healing power?

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

After His resurrection Christ appeared to His apostles; He handed His power on to them by breathing the Holy Spirit on them and telling them “whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (John 20:23). This power, which Christ gave His apostles through the Holy Spirit, has been passed down through the priesthood throughout the ages, and priests in our parishes have this same power through Christ to forgive us of our sins.

John 20:23

The priests stand in persona Christi, which means they are actually standing in the place of Christ and acting as Christ for us. Because the priest stands as Christ and is able to forgive us tangibly from our sins, we must actually go to Reconciliation. We cannot simply confess our sins in our own minds to God; that is good, but it does not bring the same grace and forgiveness as actually going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this Sacrament not only are you wiped clean from your sins, but you also receive grace to not sin again and to help you when temptations arise.

Christ forgave people of their sins and healed them in Scripture; He wants to heal your hearts in the same way. He wants you to bring your sins and wounds to Him to be forgiven so that you can be made new again. Every time you go to Reconciliation and confess all the sins you have committed you are wiped clean of them; they are forgiven and forgotten and your relationship with Christ is restored. But you must begin with making the decision to go to Reconciliation. Do not be afraid; Reconciliation “is the first step to interior healing” (YouCat 233).

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The other Sacrament of Healing is the Anointing of the Sick. When we think of Jesus healing perhaps it seems like magic, or maybe both His miracles and healing seem too farfetched to wrap our minds around. But we need to keep in mind that God’s love is far greater than we can comprehend. So the mysterious way God works in the Sacraments only reminds us of His infinite presence and His authority over everything.

Catholics who have critical health conditions receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This Sacrament can be received several times in one's life, such as for serious operations or for multiple different critical health conditions that arise throughout a person's life. Usually, Anointing of the Sick is combined with Reconciliation, in order to bring totality of healing both physically and spiritually.

One of the graces of this Sacrament gives those in danger of death courage to meet God with a clear conscience if they should not be healed. But this Sacrament also gives those who are sick and suffering peace, consolation, and strength to overcome their hardships. To confer this Sacrament, the priest places holy oil on the sick person's hands and forehead. This Sacrament may or may not result in physical healing depending on God's will for the person's life. But the important thing to remember is that it always brings with it spiritual healing and strength, which is far more important than physical healing.

DIVINE PHYSICIAN

Ultimately these Sacraments reveal Christ's desire to heal us. Jesus is often referred to as the Divine Physician, which means He is like a miraculous doctor. He has the authority of God and the power to heal us physically. More importantly, though, He can heal us spiritually and bring hearts that have been deadened from sin back to life through mercy and forgiveness.

Think about the last time you were really sick. Did your parents make an appointment and take you to the doctor to get medicine to make you better? In the same way that we make doctor appointments when we get sick, we need to make appointments with Jesus, our Divine Physician, when we are sick or in states of serious sin.

Jesus wants to heal you, and all you need to do is set aside time in your life to go to Reconciliation and, if you need it, to receive Anointing of the Sick. When you make this time for Christ, when you make these appointments, you give Christ the opportunity to bring you healing and peace. The Sacraments of Healing are one of the greatest examples of God's unending love for us and His unending mercy and forgiveness.

BREAK

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(10 min)

As your small group begins, say a prayer for the group and the activities for that session.

Discuss the following questions:

- How can we approach Jesus like He is a doctor? Had you ever thought of God in that way before tonight?
- What is your experience of Reconciliation? How can you make it a regular Sacrament you receive?
- Have you ever received the Anointing of the Sick? Or do you know someone who has? Explain and share the experience.
- Why is the Sacrament of Reconciliation so important?
- What does it mean that Jesus heals us both physically and spiritually in the Sacraments of Healing? How does this apply to your life now?

CARE CARDS

(10 min)

Keeping the youth in their small groups, hand out blank cards and pens or markers. Give each youth the name of a sick parishioner. Instruct them to write a “get well soon” card and to assure the sick people of their prayers. Encourage the youth to include something about the healing power of Christ in their letters.

Make sure to collect the cards after the youth are finished and read through them before you send them. Encourage the teens to keep praying for the person they wrote their cards to. As a small group, end this activity by offering up each person by name in prayer.

SEND

WAITING ROOM SKIT

(5 min)

Use this skit to transition out of small groups into the Send portion of this night.

NIGHT WRAP UP

(5 min)

Wrap up the night with a reminder to the youth to make an appointment with Christ their healer by making time in their life to go to Reconciliation.

End the night in a prayer.

SUMMARY CHALLENGE

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

- Jesus desires to heal us in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.
- The Sacraments of Healing bring both physical and spiritual healing through the grace of Jesus Christ.
- We should frequently examine our consciences and go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially if we have serious sin.
- The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for those who are seriously sick, entering major surgery, or close to death. It brings peace, consolation, and strength to those who receive it.

CONCLUSION

ADAPTING THIS NIGHT

Consider playing the opening Soap Bowling tournament outdoors if weather permits.

Invite the parish priest to show the teens the holy oils used for the Anointing of the Sick during the talk or as the youth gather for the Send.

Invite the parish priest to explain Reconciliation from his view, and have him emphasize the joy in seeing people healed from the Sacrament.

Have a priest available throughout the night to hear confessions.

If you have more youth than you do parishioners asking for prayers, assign each small group to write letters for the same person.

GOING DEEPER