



# GOT A QUESTION?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

### CATECHISM

# 153

# 963 - 964

# 2142 - 2143

# 2163

# 2621

### YOUCAT

# 85

# 307

# 359

# 477

### SCRIPTURE

Psalms 8:2

Psalms 113:2

Matthew 6:5 -15

Mark 11:24

Luke 2:52

John 19:26 -27

Hebrews 11:1

### KEY CONCEPTS

## GOAL OF THIS NIGHT

The goal of this night is to give a brief summary of the semester and give the teens an opportunity to ask some questions about the things that they learned. It is also an opportunity to emphasize the importance of continuing to ask questions and learn about the Church. The night will end with an activity that will guide them through using resources such as the YouCat, the Catechism and the Scriptures in finding answers to questions.

## ABOUT THIS NIGHT

The process of learning about the Church is ongoing and should continue for the rest of our lives. Life is a continuous journey of faith, and we should always try to expand our knowledge of the Catholic Church by asking questions and seeking answers. There is no end to what can be known about God and our faith. We must continue to have open, teachable hearts to the truth and beauty that is contained within the Church.

This night is designed to be more informal than other nights and is a time to recap what has been learned over the semester and for the teens to ask questions. It will begin in small groups with a simple game of 20 questions and then move into a brief proclamation about the importance to continue to learn about the Church and ask questions. There will then be a time period for questions and answers about the Church and what they have learned that maybe they don't quite understand. After the Q&A the teens will be given time to learn how to do some research on their own using the YouCat, the Catechism, and the Scriptures. The night will end with a final recap of the semester and praying of the Act of Faith.

## PARENTAL NOTICE

This night was a final wrap up of the semester on the Church. We discussed the importance of continuing to grow in our faith and learn new things by asking questions and looking for answers. They were given an opportunity to ask any questions they had from what they had learned this semester. They also had an opportunity to learn how to lookup the answers to their questions in the YouCat, the Catechism, and the Bible. We closed the Edge Night and the semester by praying the Act of Faith.

Here are some questions for discussion this week:

- What are some things you learned this semester about the Church that you didn't know before?
- What are some ways you can find answers to questions about a teaching of the Church?

## ENVIRONMENT

The environment does not have to be anything extravagant, if you have any pieces of environment left over from the previous nights of the semester it might be a good idea to put some of those up around the room to spark their memory about the different nights and what they learned.



# GATHER

## WELCOME AND 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.

## 20 QUESTIONS

*(15 min)*

Break up into small groups and give each teen in the group a notecard with a different word written on it (ex: trees, church, pope, shopping cart, blueberries, Hawaii, etc.). Each teen will get a turn to have everyone else guess what is on his or her card. One youth will start off telling the rest of the small group whether what is written on the card is a person, place, or thing. Then, the group will have 20 “yes” or “no” questions to try to guess what is written on the card. After the group guesses what is on the card move on to the next person and play until time is up.

# PROCLAIM

## "GOT A QUESTION" TEACHING

*(15 min)*

Scripture Proclamation

Luke 2:52

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In the Scripture passage we just heard it says that, “Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man” (Luke 2:52). As Jesus grew up He never stopped learning, and if God doesn’t stop learning and advancing in wisdom, then we surely cannot stop! We have spent this whole semester learning about the Church and what Jesus has left behind for us, but there is no possible way we could pack the entirety of information into one semester. There is so much to be known and so much to learn about the Church. You can spend your entire life devoted to studying and still not understand everything. It is so important that we never stop learning about our faith and keep on asking questions and searching for answers.

There are so many incredible resources we have from the Church to teach us about anything we want to know. But the important part is that we ask questions and keep looking. A lot of times when we are doing research or have questions there can be a sense of doubt about what the Church teaches. It is okay to have doubts but it is not okay to just stop at your doubt and decided to not believe something. We must always look for the answers and why the Church teaches what she does. Think about how long the Church has been around. Over 2,000 years, right? And think about how many scholars have been apart of the Church. Some of the smartest men and women of history devoted their lives to studying and formulating the teachings of the Church. We can trust that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit what that those men and women taught was, and still is, inspired by God. In light of all of this it is very important that we stay humble in our learning and don’t jump to our own conclusions about something without fully researching it and thinking about all these people that Christ has entrusted to lead us and teach us about our faith.

Don’t ever be afraid to ask questions or dive deeper into your faith because you have nothing to lose! The more you search the more you will find the truth and grow closer to Christ.

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# BREAK

## Q & A SESSION

*(20 min)*

Hand out pieces of paper and pens to the youth and ask them to write down a question they have about the Church. Have the Core Members collect them and quickly read through the questions for duplicates. Give all the questions to the leader of the Q&A. If possible, have a panel of people available for answering questions. Invite the parish priest(s) and deacon(s) to join the panel. Also, consider inviting a local Theology teacher from a local Catholic school to join as well. Begin by answering the youth's questions. If there are questions that a youth could answer, involve them in answering the question. If you do not get many questions here are some suggestions of questions you can ask and answer:

Why do I have to go to a Catholic Church? Aren't all churches the same?

CCC 760, 817-822, 836

YouCat 129,130

Why do people in the Church do bad things? Does that make the whole Church bad?

CCC 823-829

Can't I just pray at home?

CCC 760, 875, 820, 1136-1144, 1093-1097

Can the Pope ever be wrong?

YouCat 143

Pastoral Note: If difficult questions arise on topics such as priests being married, priest scandals, gay marriage, or any other tough topic issue, use discretion about answering the question in a large group. It may be more appropriate to address the topic at a different time. If the same question is asked multiple times, consider doing a separate Edge Night on that topic.

## YOUCAT STUDY

*(20 min)*

It's important to help the youth learn how to lookup answers to their own faith questions. The goal of

this Break activity is to help the youth learn how to use key references and sources. Break the teens back into small groups and give each small group a YouCat, Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Bible. Each group will be given four topics to look up in the three resources. For each topic, ask one of the youth to look up the reference number in the YouCat, another youth to look up the reference number in the Catechism, and a third youth look up the Scripture reference.

Begin by asking the youth looking up the YouCat reference to read the question and the response under the question. Next, read the reference in the Catechism. Finally, read the Scripture reference. Make sure that each youth in the small group gets a chance to look something up in one of the references. Use the following topics as a starting point. Adapt the topics to meet the questions of the group.

Faith – What is faith?

1. YouCat # 307
2. CCC # 153
3. Hebrews 11:1

Mary – Why is Mary our mother also?

1. YouCat #85
2. CCC #963-964
3. John 19:26-27

Prayer – What does it mean to learn from Jesus how to pray?

1. YouCat #477
2. CCC # 2621
3. Matthew 6:5-15, Mark 11:24

The Lord's Name – Why does God want us to “hallow” his name?

1. YouCat # 359
2. CCC # 2142-2143, 2163
3. Psalm 8:1, 113:2

# SEND

## CLOSING PRAYER

*(10 min)*

Gather all the youth back together from small group. Give each youth a copy of the Act of Faith or project it on a screen for everyone to see. Before the final prayer the youth minister should give a brief summary and recap of the semester. Begin the Act of Faith prayer by thanking God for the gift of the Church. End the time of prayer by praying the Act of Faith together.

### **Prayer of the Act of Faith**

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because in revealing them you can neither deceive nor be deceived.

# CONCLUSION

## ADAPTING THIS NIGHT

If the youth are shy about asking questions, consider creating a video with pre-planned questions being asked by the youth. This might get the youth more comfortable with asking questions.

During the Break, invite high school leadership teens to help lead the small groups.

## GOING DEEPER