



DWELLING PLACE

A LIFE NIGHT ON THE PASCHAL SACRIFICE

GOAL

The goal of this Life Night is to understand Jesus as the Paschal sacrifice that we are in communion with in the Eucharist and, like Mary, become tabernacles of the Lord.

KEY CONCEPTS

- God set His people free from their oppressor Pharaoh by prescribing a way for the spirit of death to pass over their homes - the blood of the sacrificial lamb sprinkled on wooden door posts.
- Jesus, on the bloody, wooden cross, is the Paschal Lamb - the sacrifice that sets God’s people free from the oppression of sin.
- Today, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is made present by celebrating the Mass in which Jesus gives Himself to us in the Eucharist. We, in turn, receive Him and, like Mary, become tabernacles of the Lord.

KEY TERMS:

Paschal Lamb
 Last Supper
 Tabernacle
 Communion

SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 7:14-12:51
 Leviticus 16
 Matthew 26:26-28
 John 1:29

CATECHISM:

608-614
 1341
 1363-1365
 1391

ABOUT THIS LIFE NIGHT

The Gather is a small group competition and discussion on items that signify what they contain. This leads into a Proclaim that explores the history of animal sacrifice for freedom from the oppression of sin, the Paschal sacrifice, and living in communion with the Paschal sacrifice. The Break is a small group discussion on the Proclaim. The Life Night concludes with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and a reflection on becoming tabernacles of the Lord.

ENVIRONMENT

On the stage or speaking platform place large replicas of a door post, an altar of sacrifice, a dinner table, and a cross. They can be made from cardboard and butcher paper and painted to look like wood.

Another option is to ask a Core Member with artistic talent to draw or paint these items on large poster boards. Use a poster board for each item.

Display an image of Mary, the Tabernacle of the Lord, in a central location.

Have prayerful, reflective music in the background.

MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

“In the Service of Beauty,” Life Teen Video, May 2016 Life Support USB and lifeteen.com

Dennan: “The Prince of Egypt - The Plagues HQ” (youtube video)

“Jesus’ Blood Never Failed Me Yet,” *Inheritance*, Audrey Assad, Fortunate Fall Records, February, 2016

“Let All Mortal Flesh,” *Inheritance*, Audrey Assad, Fortunate Fall Records, February, 2016

“My Victory,” *Passion*, Crowder, Sparrow Records, January, 2016

“Abide With Me,” *Saints and Sinners*, Matt Maher, Provident Label Group, March, 2015

“Mass Fitness,” *Life Teen Video Support*, Life Teen, May, 2014

SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAGS: #LivingTabernacle #Abide

AS YOU GET STARTED...

To go deeper or if you do not have a Life Night after Mass, end the Life Night with Mass. Have the priest slowly and prayerfully focus on the parts of the Mass that have to do with sacrifice and communion.

To introduce the Gather in a fun and creative way, consider playing a clip from Jimmy Fallon’s game “Box of Lies.” Search for “box of lies” on youtube.com to find an appropriate clip.

For a craftier Gather, have craft supplies and instructs the teens to create containers for different items (e.g. a sandwich, a drawing, a watch).

HISPANIC INCULTURATION

By Claudia Rodriguez

At many Hispanic masses, a good portion of the congregation does not receive the Eucharist. There is a tremendous respect for Jesus in the Eucharist and acknowledgement of personal sin. Hispanic communities must be encouraged to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation instead of continually choosing to abstain from receiving the Eucharist. God wants us to receive His mercy and to have a reconciled relationship with His people.

Also, teens need to be reminded that it is only in the state of mortal sin that they can’t receive the Eucharist. They may be getting other examples from their community of people

abstaining and may be needlessly doing so themselves. Jesus wants to give them the gift of Himself and the grace of the Eucharist.

Here are the Spanish translations of the Mass parts mentioned in the Proclaim for teens that celebrate Mass in Spanish.

“El Señor reciba de tus manos este sacrificio, para alabanza y gloria de so nombre, para nuestro bien y el de toda su santa Iglesia.”

“Tomen y coman todos de él, porque esto es mi Cuerpo, que será entregado por ustedes.”

“Tomen y beban todos de él, porque éste es el cáliz de mi Sangre, Sangre de la alianza nueva y eterna, que será derramada por ustedes y por muchos para el perdón de los pecados. Hagan esto en conmemoración mía.”

“Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del mundo. Ten piedad de nosotros.”

Notes: _____

LIFE NIGHT: DWELLING PLACE

GATHER

Welcome and Prayer (5 min)

Gather the teens into the main meeting space. Welcome them to the Life Night and begin in prayer.

Contents and Containers (10 min)

Have the teens get into their small groups. Instruct the Core Members to open in prayer and lead a small group competition followed by a discussion.

The Core Members split the small group into two opposing teams and then instruct the teens to brainstorm a list of things that signify what they contain e.g. coffee canisters contain coffee grounds, wallets contain money, and jewelry boxes contain jewelry. The team that comes up with the most gets a prize. Give the teens two to three minutes to complete their list.

Next, bring the group back together and ask and discuss the following questions:

- Is there a correlation between the value of the contents and the value of the containers? Should there be? Why? Why not?
- If you were to create a container that holds the Eucharist, what would it look like?
- If someone were to look at me, would they know that I contained Christ? What in your life reveals that you contain Jesus in the Eucharist?

PROCLAIM

“Dwelling Place” Teaching (15 min)

The teaching for this Life Night is found on pages 49 to 54.

BREAK

Small Group Discussion (15 min)

Have the teens get into their small groups. Instruct the Core Members to lead a small group discussion using the following questions:

- What stood out to you from the talk?
- How have you found sin to be oppressive?
- How has a relationship with Jesus led you to greater freedom and fulfilling communion?
- What does being a tabernacle of the Lord mean to you?

SEND

Eucharistic Adoration (30 min)

Gather the teens in the church sanctuary near the tabernacle. Then, use the following to lead a time of Adoration:

The word “tabernacle” was originally used by the Jewish people to describe the tent that was erected to shelter the Ark of the Covenant. The Jewish people believed that both the tabernacle tent and Ark of the Covenant contained the presence of God.

Ideally, a tabernacle is placed in the most prominent place in the Church and is made of precious metal and stones. These outward signs point to the tremendous value of Who is held in a Tabernacle, the Body of Christ.

In a moment, we are going to enter into Adoration. But we are going to do things differently. We won’t put the monstrance on the altar. Instead, we will open the doors of the tabernacle so we can adore the Blessed Sacrament, the presence of God, contained within.

As we spend this time before the Real Presence of Jesus, it is an opportunity to reflect on our desire to be in communion with God and become tabernacles of the Lord, like Mary.

Keep the mood prayerful and silent, allowing the teens to enter into the meaning of tabernacle and Mary’s and our

connection to it. You may want to hand out a sheet of paper or project the following questions for reflection:

- What does being in communion with the Paschal sacrifice mean to me?
- How can I prepare to be a tabernacle of the Lord?

Close the time of Adoration by closing the doors of the tabernacle and challenging the teens to be tabernacles in the world this week.

Conclude the Life Night by praying the Memorare.

Notes: _____



DWELLING PLACE

KEY TERMS

Paschal Lamb: A title for Jesus that links Him to the lamb that was consumed at the Passover dinner.

Last Supper: The last meal, a Passover supper, which Jesus ate with His disciples the night before He died.

Tabernacle: The receptacle in the Church that holds Jesus, in the Eucharist. Mary is known as the Tabernacle of the Lord because she bore Jesus in her womb.

Communion: The reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Our fellowship and union with Jesus.

TEACHING POINTS

- Mary, in her immaculate nature, is the most perfect example of communion with God because she was perfectly united with Jesus when she carried Him in her womb and after His Death and Resurrection in the Eucharist.
- We, have the fullness of communion with God in the sacrifice of the Mass and the reception of Jesus in the Eucharist.

PASSOVER

- The Eucharist is foreshadowed in Old Testament sacrifice. In the Book of Exodus, God prescribed a way for His people to be protected from death before the Exodus from Egypt - the sacrifice of the lamb. He ordered every household to sacrifice a lamb, eat its flesh, and cover the wooden doorpost of their home with the lamb's blood.

ANIMAL SACRIFICE

- In the book of Leviticus, God instructs Aaron and Moses to select a goat to offer as a sacrifice in order to be freed from the oppression of sin. When God saw the blood of the offering, He poured out His mercy.

THE LAST SUPPER

- Jesus celebrates the feast of Passover with His disciples. Instead of offering the sacrificial lamb, He offers Himself.
- The following day, Jesus gives Himself up to a bloody death on a wooden cross. He reveals Himself as the Paschal Lamb.
- Christ's death is both the Paschal sacrifice, which takes away the sins of the world, and the sacrifice of the New Covenant, which restores man to communion with God by reconciling him to God through the blood of the covenant.

THE MASS

- At the Last Supper, Jesus instructs His disciples and us to "do this in memory of me." He commands us to remember what He said at Passover and accomplished on the cross and we are faithful to this by celebrating the Mass.

TABERNACLE OF THE LORD

- When we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become tabernacles, like Mary, and are in communion with Jesus, the Paschal sacrifice. "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."



DWELLING PLACE

TEACHING

Coffee canisters contain coffee, wallets contain money, and jewelry boxes contain jewelry. A tabernacle contains the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus.

When we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we become tabernacles of the Lord. Unlike coffee canisters and wallets, we don't simply contain Jesus but become united with Him.

CCC 1391

Communion with God is a foundational component of the Christian life. Saint Augustine's quote sums up this quest, "You have made us for yourself, Oh Lord, and our hearts are restless until we rest in you."

CCC 1, Confessions

Mary, in her immaculate nature, is the most perfect example of communion with God because she was perfectly united with Jesus when she carried Him in her womb and after His Death and Resurrection in the Eucharist.

The Jewish people had foretastes of communion with God in their practice of animal sacrifice. We, as Christians, have the fullness of communion with God in the sacrifice of the Mass and the reception of Jesus in the Eucharist.

PASSOVER

One of the most foundational instances of sacrifice occurs in the Book of Exodus. God's people are brutally enslaved to Pharaoh. They cry out for freedom and God sends Moses to deliver them. Moses goes to Pharaoh and demands "let my people go." Pharaoh refuses.

In response, God sends plagues to Pharaoh's kingdom. The water in the rivers turns to blood, frogs overtake the land, and the livestock die. There is famine, drought, and much suffering. Finally, Moses warns Pharaoh that every first-born son will die if he continues to enslave God's children. Pharaoh again refuses.

God prescribed a way for His people to be protected and their first-born sons preserved from death - the sacrifice of the lamb. He ordered every household to sacrifice a lamb, eat its flesh (sound familiar?), and cover the wooden doorpost of their home with the lamb's blood.

That night, the spirit of death passed over the land and any home without the blood of the lamb lost their firstborn son, including Pharaoh.

After such tragedy, Pharaoh relents and God's people are set free.

This event is called Passover. The Jewish people remember Passover by coming together to share in the Passover meal and offering and eating a sacrificial lamb.

Exodus 7:14-12:51

ANIMAL SACRIFICE

In the book of Leviticus, animal sacrifice is given greater meaning. God instructs Aaron and Moses to select a goat to offer as a sacrifice in order to be freed from the oppression of sin. When God saw the blood of the offering, He poured out His mercy. Furthermore, as they ate the animal's flesh they were in "communion" with the animal who had taken their place and paid their debt. Sound familiar?

Leviticus 16

THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus celebrates the feast of Passover with His disciples. Instead of offering the sacrificial lamb, He offers Himself.

Matthew 26:26-28

(The speaker reads Matthew 26:26-28. Consider displaying the passage on the projector or having the teens open their Bibles and read along.)

The following day, Jesus gives Himself up to a bloody death on a wooden cross. He reveals Himself as the Paschal Lamb.

CCC 608, 1 Peter 1:19

Christ's death is both the Paschal sacrifice, which takes away the sins of the world and the sacrifice of the New Covenant, which restores man to communion with God by reconciling him to God through the blood of the covenant.

CCC 613

THE MASS

At the Last Supper, Jesus instructs His disciples and us to "do this in memory of me." He commands us to remember what He said at Passover and accomplished on the cross and we are faithful to this by celebrating the Mass.

CCC 1341

Let's listen to some of the words of the Mass and see if they have greater meaning now.

(Consider displaying the following Mass responses on the projector so the teens can read along.)

"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name for our good and the good of all His holy Church."

"Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given for you."

"Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me."

“Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.”

TABERNACLE OF THE LORD

(Consider projecting an image of Mary, Tabernacle of the Lord, on the projector.)

Mass is not only a celebration and a making present of Jesus’s sacrifice, but also an opportunity to be united with the Paschal sacrifice. When we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become tabernacles, like Mary, and are in communion with Jesus, the Paschal sacrifice. “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.”

CCC 1391, John 6:56

To further what we discussed in the previous Life Night, *Lost Ark*, the pureness of the divine and the impureness of man cannot mix therefore, Jesus in the Eucharist cannot mix with someone in a state of mortal sin. This is why we encourage those who are heavy with sin to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Mass.

Mary not only contained and was in communion with the precious Body and Blood of Jesus, but she also took Him with her wherever she went. She displayed Him, radiated Him to all she met.

(Play the Life Support Video, “In the Service of Beauty.” It can be found on the May 2016 Life Support USB and online at lifeteen.com under Life Support: May 2016.)

It is our calling to receive Jesus in the Eucharist and live in fulfilling communion with the Paschal sacrifice. It is an honor to be His dwelling place. Let us press into this mystery by becoming worthy tabernacles of the Lord and by acknowledging Who we are receiving when we receive the Eucharist and radiating Him to all we meet.



CORE TEAM OVERVIEW

DWELLING PLACE: A Life Night on The Paschal Sacrifice

GOAL: The goal of this Life Night is to understand Jesus as the Paschal sacrifice that we are in communion with in the Eucharist and, like Mary, become tabernacles of the Lord.

GATHER (15 MINS):

Welcome and Prayer: _____

Contents and Containers: _____

PROCLAIM (15 MINS):

“Dwelling Place” Teaching: _____

BREAK (15 MINS):

Small Group Discussion: _____

- What stood out to you from the talk?
- How have you found sin to be oppressive?
- How has a relationship with Jesus led you to greater freedom and fulfilling communion?
- What does being a tabernacle of the Lord mean to you?

SEND (30 MINS):

Eucharistic Adoration: _____

Notes: _____
