



Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team

#8 5/06/2020

Candletime Online (Invite youth to get a candle to light during the prayers)

Game Freeze Frame – Invite everyone to an action like running, eating, dancing, favorite sport, reading, etc. Then call Freeze Frame. Call out a name and ask them a question about the activity. Where are you running to? What are you eating? What song are you dancing too? What's your favorite athlete? What book are you reading? Etc?

Share your name and a language you are learning and your experience has been so far?

Ask Why is learning other languages so important?

Read Genesis 11 from the Message

“God Turned Their Language into ‘Babble’”

At one time, the whole Earth spoke the same language. It so happened that as they moved out of the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled down.

They said to one another, “Come, let’s make bricks and fire them well.” They used brick for stone and tar for mortar.

Then they said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower that reaches Heaven. Let’s make ourselves famous so we won’t be scattered here and there across the Earth.”

GOD came down to look over the city and the tower those people had built.

GOD took one look and said, “One people, one language; why, this is only a first step. No telling what they’ll come up with next—they’ll stop at nothing! Come, we’ll go down and garble their speech so they won’t understand each other.” Then GOD scattered them from there all over the world. And they had to quit building the city. That’s how it came to be called Babel, because there GOD turned their language into “babble.” From there GOD scattered them all over the world.

Ask What questions do you have after reading this?

What do you think motivates the people to build the tower toward the heavens?

Is the scattering of people and the creation of multiple languages and cultural groups a punishment? Why or why not?

Talk The Tower of Babel and the story of its construction appears to be a way to explain the existence of diverse human languages and cultures. But, the story is really about a group of people gathered together, led by Nimrod, to create a tower that would reach the heavens. Essentially, they wanted to become like God. God sees this. Is angry because no one is like God. And God confuses their language so they cannot communicate with one another and finish the tower. Then he spreads them out to fill the earth.

Isn't it fascinating to see how the creation of different languages are a result of sin, and yet God took their sins and transformed them into something beautiful, a mosaic of languages and cultures across the world? In fact, experts believe there are approximately 4 to 6 thousand languages among the people in the world.

Listen and Watch David Crowder O For a Thousand Tongues
<https://youtu.be/sBFgZ-NqRwc>

Ask What words came to mind when you heard this old hymn expressed with video?

Activity Take a piece of paper and write down the name/s of a person you know speaks a different language or comes from a different culture than you. Add what you know about them and their story. Add questions you want to ask them? Write down the gifts they bring to your life?

Bonus This week take a few minutes and make a call to the person. Check on them and find out how they, their family, and loved ones are handling life during Covid-19. If you're comfortable with them... Let them know you are thankful for them and let them know the gifts they bring to your friendship. And ask if there is anything you can pray for.

Prayer Ask everyone to share one petition along with the name of a friend you who speaks another language and one gift they bring to your relationship.

Close with this prayer.

Lord, we give thanks for the different languages of the world. For the different friends and the gifts they bring to our lives.

Lord, free us from our need to exalt ourselves like the people we heard about in the scripture today.

Where we are prone to seek things for ourselves,
help us to seek the best things for You and others...

Where we are prone to make enemies,
help us to make friends...

Where we are prone to mistrust,
help us to trust...

Where we are prone to hate,
help us to love...

Where we are prone to despise,
help us to respect...

Where we are prone to seek being served,
help us to serve...

Where we are prone to speak evil,
help us to speak words of life...

Where we are prone to be idle,
help us to choose action...

Where we are prone to discouragement,
help us to be encouraged and to give encouragement...

Where we are prone to a lust for power,
help us to yield power...

Where we are prone to feel entitled,
help us to relinquish our rights...

Where we are prone to speak boastfully,
help us to choose meekness...

Where we are prone to impatience,
help us to choose patience...

Where we are prone to be demanding,
help us to choose love...

All for Your glory. Amen.

Adapted from Prayers for Today

Bless One another by marking the sign of the cross on your hand and raising it towards your camera.

