



Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team #14 6/24/2020

Candletime Online Inspired by Abigail Offhaus, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2020 YCLT



Opening Game Who I Am? Preparation: A Bag with at least 20 ordinary objects. Items might be a brush (bad hair day), a toothbrush (I hate the dentist), a fork (my favorite food) a picture, a dollar bill, sunglasses, a bible, shaving cream, a ball, a pen, a basket, paperclip, rock, watch, etc.

Leader says: I have a bag full of objects. I will call out the name of one person. That person will use their imagination and reach in and pick something out of my bag. I will bring the object out of the bag to the screen. That person has 1 minute to tell a personal story that describes why that item helps identify who they are.

Depart to Breakout Groups

Share your name and highs and lows for the past week.

Say We are going to watch a video from Pastor Michael Todd who is a lead pastor at Transformation Church in Tulsa, OK. This is a not a Lutheran congregation, but his short object lesson is impressive. Pastor Todd will talk briefly about "B" groups, which are small groups in church, called "Belong".

Watch <https://youtu.be/ENhZhucLGGg> Finding Your Identity in God

Share What did you like or did not like about the video? Do you think physical identity reflects spiritual identity? How would you describe your physical identity? Do you have any limitations?

Say Sometimes we can do things to change our physical identity. Sometimes we cannot.

Ask How would you describe Your spiritual identity? Do you have any limitations? What are things you do to grow your spiritual identity? Examples: Attend Candletime, service projects, study the bible,

Say While we cannot always change our physical attributes, we can always improve upon our spiritual abilities.

Read Luke 24:36-49 Jesus Appears to the Disciples NRSV

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."[□] **37** They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.[□] **41** While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah[□] is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses[□] of these things. **49** And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

Luke 24:36-49 The Message

36-41 While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true. **41-43** He asked, "Do you have any food here?" They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

44 Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled." **45-49** He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high."

Ask What stands out to you in these verses? What did Jesus say the disciples must do beginning in verse 44? How do these verses apply to us today?

Challenge – Text/Call a Friend

For some, during the Covid-19 pandemic it has been hard to keep up with things we do for ourselves to develop physically and spiritually. There have been limits to what we can do for ourselves and for others because of social distancing. Who do you know struggles with either their physical or spiritual identity and might feel especially disconnected at this time? Your challenge is to send them a text and bible verse this week. Let them know you have been thinking about them and you have been concerned during the pandemic about their wellbeing both physically and spiritually. Include a verse that reminds you of them. And if they need to talk, you are available for them. Here are some good verses to send.

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| 1. John 3:1 | 6. Colossians 3:12 |
| 2. Exodus 19: 3-6 | 7. 1 Peter 2:9 |
| 3. 1 Peter: 9-10 | 8. 2 Corinthians 5:17 |
| 4. Romans 8:14-17 | 9. Ephesians 2:10 |
| 5. Galatians 3:26-28 | 10. Philippians 4:19 |

Ask everyone to **Light** a candle or candles as a symbol that Christ's light shines around you and hears your prayers. Take a moment to **pause** in silence. Feel God's presence with you. **Ask** What prayers do you have for God. Who or what is on your heart to pray for? **Pray together** Ask everyone to share one petition.

Return to the Large Group

Closing Prayer

Dear gracious and loving God, we thank you for all You have done for us. Lord, You know our daily struggles and what we are going through. Let us not be swayed by the negative influences of others or thoughts that go through our heads. Help us to not get caught up in worldly desires but be focused and engrossed in You. Remind us that we are your children, all of us, no matter our physical limitations or disabilities. God, sometimes we get really confused and are not sure who we are or our place in this world. Help us to trust and be confident that you are guiding us into our futures and will show us our place in this world. Shape us, mold us, and equip us into who you want us to be. And equip us to be your witnesses in this world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

Receive this Blessing. Beloved, know that YOU are a living reflection of God. Go and live as the person, both physically and spiritually that God has created You to be. Finally, go in peace to learn, to serve, and to share God's love with one another. Amen