



Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team

#17 7/15/2020

Candletime Online

Opening Game Charades is the game where you act out a word or phrase without speaking, and others guess what it is. In zoom, leader sends out a word or phrase privately in chat to a participant to act out. Everyone else guesses what the word or phrase is. The leader can choose another person or the person who guessed correctly. Examples are brushing teeth, driving a car, opening a gift, shoveling snow, decorating a Christmas tree, dancing, sleeping in a hammock. You can also have categories like song, book or movie title. The leader should introduce the category to the group before the person begins acting the word, phrase, song, book, or movie.

Depart to Breakout Groups

Share your name and someone or something that has given you hope this week and why.

Watch "Chasms" by Writer and activist Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes who lights up the stage with a powerful poem about hope, truth and the space between who we are and who we want to be and the work being done to bring hope in New Orleans.

https://www.ted.com/talks/asali_devan_ecclesiastes_chasms?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

Ask? What did you like or not like about the poem? Explain.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-18 from NRSV

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a

blessing. ¹⁰ For "Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ let them turn away from evil and do good, let them seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." ¹³ Now who will harm you if you

are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you

are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,^(b) and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and

reverence.¹⁶ Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered¹⁶ for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you¹⁶ to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

1 Peter 3:8-18 The Message

8-12 Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing. Whoever wants to embrace life and see the day fill up with good, Here's what you do: Say nothing evil or hurtful; Snub evil and cultivate good; run after peace for all you're worth. God looks on all this with approval, listening and responding well to what he's asked; But he turns his back on those who do evil things. **13-18** If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that *they're* the ones who need a bath. It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

Ask? Are these verses about our relationship with God or with other people?

Ask? What stands out to you in these scripture verses?

Ask? What do these verses tell us about how we should respond especially when we disagree or have poor relationships with others?

Share What a difference it would be if we were to follow Peter's directives in our day and age. He calls us to be of one mind – to have unity of spirit in the bond of peace... to hold fast together our faith in Christ Jesus and the gospel of grace, and to live in harmony one with the other. He calls us to sympathize with each other - to have compassion one for another and to empathize in the trials and difficulties that our brothers and sisters are going through, to be there to help and to comfort, to support and encourage. Asali not only shares that through her gift of poetry but also through her words and actions. She is, like many, bringing unity to her neighborhood, to her community, to her home.

Ask? Have you had someone in your life model the principles in this passage? Explain.

Ask? What are the benefits of applying these verses to our lives?

Ask? What are ways we can bring unity and hope into our families, our schools, our communities, our world?

Prayer 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 God, In these very difficult days, as your disciples, you continue to call us to love our brothers and sisters. To care and to pray for them. To love them in the same way that you loved us. Dear God, sometimes it is very hard. Sometimes we do not see everything that is happening in a person's life and we make judgements or criticize when we know it is wrong. Help us to be tender-hearted and compassionate. To have a humble attitude. To care for those who are lost and hurting. To render Christian courtesy and compassion on all with whom we come in contact and to be tender-hearted and full of grace. Finally help to live as you would want us to do, to bring unity and hope, both in the words we speak and the actions we take. In your son's name we pray, Amen.

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

May the beauty of God
be reflected in your eyes,
the love of God
be reflected in your hands,
the wisdom of God
be reflected in your words,
and the knowledge of God
flow from your heart,
that all might see, and believe.

