

Week

6

I am destined

A Lent course for the youth
of the Diocese of Chichester



YEAR OF VOCATION
2019

Aim

To go deeper into Romans 8 to understand who we are and what it means. We are part of God's family and nothing can come between us and our relationship with God. With the confidence of knowing this, what responsibility do we have to the world around us today and in the future?

Learning Outcome

- To have confidence in their identity in Christ
- To know that no matter what they do God loves them
- That they can have a real friendship with God
- Their passions are important to pass onto the next generation

Materials Needed

- Marshmallows...lots of them
- Digestive biscuits and chocolate
- A way of heating the S'mores – microwave will do!
- Screen and speakers to show YouTube video
- Paper for making paper people chain
- Scissors
- Pens
- Pipe Cleaners
- Fine string or yarn
- Gift tags/Luggage labels for hanging off dream catchers

Informal Start/Recap

Can the young people remember the memory verse song from the week before? Did you record it? If so play the video back to the young people.

What have they done with their snow globe?
Are they still using their journal from two weeks ago?

Icebreaker

Marshmallow challenge – if you can sit and look and not touch the marshmallow for 1 minutes then you can have an extra marshmallow. If not you cannot then you can't have the extra one. – What does this teach us about patience and awareness of the future?

When you've finished this you can play a game of fluffy bunnies with the left over marshmallows if people want to do that. You can also use them for competitions to toss them up in the air and catch them in their mouths...you may even want to make S'mores. In America they make them with Gram Crackers but here in the UK it's unlikely you'll find them so you may have to settle for digestives.

Video Clip and Bible Verse

Shane Claiborne – Thy Kingdom Come video 2019
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yIPFL_5CYI

Break the bible verse down into chunks and get young people that are happy to read to share it out around the circle.

Romans 8:18-27

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

This is a long passage compared to previous weeks, but it's an important one

There are lots of people and things that will claim they can tell us what our future is, but nobody can know the future, only God knows. We look forward to what God has for us – we may ask questions about what will happen in the future, after death, at the end of the world but these things are a distraction. By the Holy Spirit we can be in relationship with God now. We can know the Glory and greatness of God here on earth. We are already living in his Kingdom. What greater thing is there than to be living in the will of God, the power that created everything that is.

Discussion

What does it look like to work out our faith practically?

What does the bible tell us we should do? How do you think Christians should live differently to everyone else? What does the bible say about people who are in need? What can we do about that?

Of all the takeaways, discussions, bible passages and creative prayer and worship over the last six weeks which has had the biggest impact on your relationship With God?

Why this particular one, is there anything you're really going to stick with?

Who does God say we are?

Review the things you, as a group have discussed over the course, reminding them of the different things that God calls us.

If God says these things about us, what does that mean for us in our everyday life?

What is your biggest fear in life? How can you know that God is with you?

We can be confident, we can know that no matter what happens each day we know we have God who is with us and for us and loves us. Spend some time talking about what ways God can support us and the importance of being linked into a church

Over the last few weeks we have looked at who we are and who God has created us to be. How does Romans 8 help us with this?

What would you like people to say about you at the end of your life? What are the things that are important for you to pass onto the next generation?

- It could be environment, knowledge, art work, creativity, exploration, invention – allow the young people to dream big and know that God is in their big dreams as well as the day to day small stuff.

If you want to know more about God, or are struggling to hear from Him or feel distant from Him, what would you do?

Do you feel you could talk to your youth leader? Could you read your bible? How would you choose what to read? Would you use your journal? What other Christians do you know that you trust enough to talk to about your faith?

Response/Creative Prayer

When we know Jesus we are transformed to be more like Him –Shane Claiborne - the guy from the video earlier – Says Christians should live like God has no way to work on earth except through us. When we pray we should pray for opportunities to witness, to pray for people, to fill people's needs. Practical Prayers, they're called Conspiring prayers. Prayers that we pray conspiring with God.

Pray to be filled with the Love of Jesus and presence of the Holy Spirit so that we would be equipped to do God's works.

Use this time to encourage the young people to pray for people they know.

Get the young people to make paper people chains. Take a piece of paper and fold it like in a concertina fold. Cut the shape of a person into the paper making sure the hands go right to the edge. When the sheet is unfolded you should have a string of paper people holding hands. Encourage the young people to write names of friends and family that don't know Jesus onto each of the people shapes. Encourage them to spend some time praying for each of these people.

Play some music and give the young people some space.

Memory Verse

Young people are sitting in a circle on chairs or on the floor. You give them each a word of the memory verse. You 'bop' them on the head and they have to say their word. You bop the next person, they say their word etc. Once you have gotten through the whole verse, they all move one seat to the left. They then have to say the word that the previous person sitting in the chair was saying.

Once they start to get good at it, increase the pace. You should get to the point where you will be sprinting around the circle. Once you've done a lap, SCREAM 'change!'... The key to this game is being quick and intense.

Romans 8:38-39 I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Takeaway

To have a time of thinking big. The young people will be encouraged to think in school about their dreams and ambitions which will be directing them to further education and employment. Allow them to think about what they might want to do in life where God has given them skills and talents that they can use and pass on.

Each person to have a pipe cleaner shaped into a heart and with yarn – to make a dream catcher, prayerfully asking God for the dreams for their lives. – Each time they place a piece of yarn they should pray a simple prayer God to fill them and to be with them.

They may want to write a bible verse on a card and hang it from the bottom of the dream catcher. These are some examples that may work well.

But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.
~ 2 Chronicles 15:7

May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.
~ Psalm 20:4

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.
~ Psalm 33:11

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
~ Psalm 37:4

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.
~ Proverbs 3:5-6

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.
~ Proverbs 16:3

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.
~ Proverbs 16:9

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.
~ Proverbs 29:18

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.
~ Isaiah 40:31

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
~ Philippians 4:13

Final Game

Tangled Chain –

Get everyone to huddle in a group in a circle in the middle of the room and join each hand with someone across the circle – NOT one of the people next to them (it won't work if they do that). Once everyone has joined hands, let them know their task is now to untangle themselves.

To make the game interesting, make sure there are some chaotic hand joins going on - get players to weave their hands up and over other arms.

This ice breaker game can work really well as a team competition - split the group into a few different even-sized teams and get each group to tangle themselves then make it a race to get completely untangled. It might help to have a leader watching each team so there is no cheating going on!