



FORK ^{IN THE} ROAD

LIFE NIGHT PLANNING SHEET

DATE _____

GOAL FOR THIS NIGHT

To help teens understand that each vocation has its own charism but all Catholics are called to be whole in Christ.

ABOUT THIS NIGHT

This night is about the sacraments of vocation. Time is spent teaching teens about Holy Orders and Holy Matrimony. Each of us has been called, through our baptism, to holiness. All of us are called to lives of prayer and this night will explain the two vocations that are sacraments.

For more ideas or original videos associated with the sacrament of Holy Orders, refer to the LIFE TEEN videotape #2 contained in the LIFE TEEN Legacy Vocation Series.

ENVIRONMENT

On the walls and hanging from the ceiling should be Merge, Yield, Speed Bump, Curve in Road, Construction Up Ahead and Stop signs. Orange cones to line a roadway in the room with a fork in the road. At the end of one side of the fork, Holy oils, and at the end of the other side, wedding bells.

LIFE NIGHT TEAM

SAINTS

St. Maximillian Kolbe
Padre Pio da Pietrelcina
St. John Vianney
St. Joseph
St. Jane Frances de Chantel
St. Anne and St. Joachim

BIBLE

Genesis 2:24
Genesis 14:18
Psalms 110:4
Proverb 3:1-7
Gal. 2:19-21
1Cor. 12:12-26
Eph. 5:21-30

CATECHISM

1537-1658

GATHER | 15 MINUTES

ANIMAL MATCHING GAME | 15 MINUTES)

You will need color coded cards with a farm animal written on one side of the card and the name of a sound you would hear at a construction site on the other side. Divide into two teams with one of each animal sound on each team. Ask the teens to begin mingling making only the sound of the animal on their card. While making the sound they must locate another person in the room making the same sound. Once they have found that person they are to share one place they saw God in that week. After each person has found their partner and shared, they are to flip the card over and begin making the sound listed that is a sound you would hear at a construction site. Finding their partner and then sharing one thing they read, saw or studied that brought them closer to God that week. While the teens are moving around the room listening for their animal/construction site sounds a Core member has a megaphone and is loudly proclaiming "Sunday, Sunday, Sunday" or other slogans that have the tendency to get stuck in our heads. This is used as a distraction for the teens in accomplishing their goal. After the teens have found their partners and shared, the Youth Minister welcomes all teens and introduces all new teens. A coke, CD or other prize is given to the teen(s) who most fit and played up the role of their animal or construction site sounds.

PROCLAIM | 15 MINUTES

SEE ATTACHED TEACHING "FORK IN THE ROAD"



FORK ^{IN THE} ROAD

BREAK | 35 MINUTES

DISCERNING GIFTS GAME | 20 MINUTES

In Small Groups (teens will be in small groups based on the color of the card they were given with the sounds on it from the Gather portion of the night.) Each teen will be given a handicap. As a group they will be given specific directions on how to build a building. The teen that cannot speak is the only one who gets to see the diagram or directions and she/he must find other ways to help the others complete the task.

- 1 One can see and use hands but can't speak (has directions)
- 2 One can speak and see but can't use hands
- 3 One can use hands and speak but cant see

Each small group, consisting of 5 teens, is given colored blocks (legos), a handicap for each teen and 1 diagram of the building they are to create. The diagram or directions need to be very specific in color, size and order. If you want to add a bit of competition to it, give them a time limit or tell them the first team to complete the building following all handicaps will win a prize (coke for each team member). After the simulation move to the small group questions that should be facilitated by Core.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS | 15 MINUTES

- 1) What was the hardest part for you about the block building game? (Looking for an answer like, "Relying on others, not being in control, letting others help you).
- 2) What characteristics do you think make a good husband/wife? (Have them list them off rapidly, look for an answer that resembles selflessness).
- 3) What characteristics do you think make a good priest/religious sister? (Have them list off rapidly).
- 4) Do you see any of those characteristics in yourself?
- 5) God is calling all of us to be selfless in life. In what area of your life are you the most selfish, and what can you do to change and be more selfless?

SEE ATTACHED SMALL GROUP QUESTION SHEET

SEND | 15 MINUTES

VOCATION PRAYER TIME | 15 MINUTES

- Light candles and lower lights
- While worship leader is strumming in the background, have the Youth Minister call the teens to prayer. At this time invite the priest and sister up in front if you are able to have them present. Share briefly about the beauty of each vocation (priesthood, sisterhood, and marriage). Then invite those young men who are feeling a call (loudly or softly) to discern the priesthood to come forward. Remind all gathered that their openness to come forward is not to be shared with others because it is not up to us to share. Have the priest (if available) or Youth Minister lead a prayer over the young men. Then repeat this invitation to all the young women who are feeling a call (loudly or softly) to discern religious life as a sister to come forward to be prayed over by a religious sister (if available) or Youth Minister. Lastly, repeat this with the other teenagers discerning married life. Invite them forward and have the Youth minister pray over them in their dating relationship for purity and chastity.
- Close with a Hail Mary and Ave Maria.
- Be sure to have the CORE team follow up with encouragement after the night. This night might be the first time a teen stood to recognize a calling, so we need to follow up with love and encouragement.

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FORK IN THE ROAD



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Fork in the Road

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TEACHING: FORK IN THE ROAD

Note: You will need to recruit a married couple (who have teenagers) and a Priest for this talk. And not just any one – they will be giving the majority of the talk, which will require some acting skills. They will need to be people who would feel comfortable speaking to teens and would be open to sharing some of their personal faith journey.

The Youth Minister or a CORE member will also need to serve as an MC for the talk, which will help keep things moving. It would be best if the MC were a single person – allowing for a greater transition into the second part of the talk. This is a light-hearted treatment of the Sacraments of Service, with a more serious ending that will drive the key points home about these two powerful Sacraments.



The Youth Minister or a CORE Member leads this opening section – setting up the special guests for the night.

I. Opening

A. Sacraments

1.This semester we have been looking at the Sacraments.

2.So far- we've heard about the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist; and the Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

B.Now tonight – we get to dig into the Sacraments of Service, which are Holy Orders and Matrimony.

1.And there is no better way to do that than to have people who are living these Sacraments come and share their own experiences with us.

2.So tonight we have some special guests:
Fr. _____, and
Mr. and Mrs. _____

3.Allow time for applause.

C.Let's start tonight by looking at the purpose for these Sacraments – in light of God's plan.

1.In the Catechism we see that these two Sacraments are special, and unique from all the others – they are the only two Sacraments that are directed towards others.

2.In fact, it even says that any contribution these Sacraments may make to personal salvation happens only through the service to others.

3.And the people who receive these Sacraments are changed - they see a "Fork in the Road" on their journey, and God calls them down a new path - a Path of Service.



CCC #1533



CCC #1534

II. REAL Life Sacraments

A. But let's look at these Sacraments, lived out in the real lives of our guests tonight!!



At this point there will be a pretty radical interruption as the special guests for the night speak up from the audience and offer to share their own experiences with their vocation choices.

MC: (Has the Priest on one side, facing the audience, and the married couple on the other side) We're going to start out the night with a little debate. I'm very interested – which do you think is the harder vocation here – Married Life, or Priesthood? (Waits for the crowd to respond / cast votes)

MC: Well Father _____, Mr. and Mrs. _____, let's take a few minutes to debate – who has it harder? From your real-life experiences, what things are challenging and difficult about YOUR vocation? Fr. _____, let's start with you.

Priest: Well . . . the challenging things . . . ah, here's one – listening to endless sinners in confession - I fought with my sister, I disobeyed my parents – yada yada yada – after a while it all seems like the same things.

MC: Mr. and Mrs. _____

Married Couple: (For all the dialogue, the married couple can decide who will say which lines – mix it up and balance it out between the two) Well, that isn't so bad. How about having to break up fights between your children every day, multiple times a day, multiple times an hour – and after a while it always seems like the same fight.

MC: Father – anything more challenging than that? (The debate gets rolling on its own from here – the MC does not have to keep asking questions because the married couple and the priest get in a sort of one-upmanship with each other).

(The debate needs to keep escalating with each interaction – each side trying to show how their life is more difficult – put a lot of emotion in it – exaggerate and make it as humorous as you can).

Priest: Well, have you ever had to go to the hospital

in the middle of the night to be with people you don't even know?

Married Couple: Well, no, but we do have to get up many times in the middle of the night to take care of our children – I don't think I've slept straight through a night in 14 years. And have you ever had to clean up a kid who barfed in his sleep?! Not pretty.

Priest: You think you've got it rough? How would you like to be on call for your job 24/7, always dress in black, and get paid barely enough to put you at poverty level?

Married Couple: Well, we are on call 24/7, can't match you on the black thing though – but poverty level – I've got two words for you Father . . . "braces" & "college".

Priest: Do you think it's a picnic having to come up with something new to say every day for homilies?

Married Couple (Wife): Well, do you think it's a picnic coming up with something new and creative for dinner every night – that everyone will actually eat?! (Husband): And how about the only time I can ever get any peace and quiet is sitting in the bathroom – and that only lasts as long as it takes for one of the kids to find out where I am!!

Priest: Okay look, how would you like it if the only time someone talked to you is when they needed something?

Married Couple: Hmmm . . . sounds a lot like my house.

Priest: Okay, maybe that's not the best example - How do you think I feel when people come in late and leave early? Not a big esteem builder, you know what I mean!?

Married Couple: Wow – now that really sounds like our house – except they sleep in late and go out early. And how about those early morning traumas – "my Science Project is due today!!!"

Priest: Well, let's not forget....my boss is GOD! Do you know how GOOD you have to be at your job when HE'S the one judging your performance?

Married Couple: Hello – who do you think our boss is? Everything our kids do reflects on us – and we have very little control over what they do!! Do you know how hard it is to let go and let your child make a decision – especially when you don't agree with it?!

MC: Okay now – this is getting a little tense. I thought it would be a good idea to have a little debate, but wow, you guys are really going after this! (nervous laugh) Maybe we could focus a little on the "positive" things about your vocations. Fr. _____, what is something that you love about being a priest?

Priest: Oh well, um . . . there are lots of "positive" things . . . like, I get to spend time every day in quiet prayer – I can't imagine what it would be like if I could never find any quiet time.

Married Couple: Yeah . . . and we get to have those special spontaneous moments with our children – you know those funny things that kids do – just the joy of having a house full of noise and activity and . . . life!

Priest: And that "always black clothes" thing – I guess I never have to worry about color-coordinating my clothes!

Married Couple: And we get to pick out our clothes every day, and usually the clothes for our kids – and somehow, God always provides for us, and there are always clothes to pick from!

Priest: And I get to bring the Sacraments to people – wow, talk about a gift.

Married Couple: And we get to raise up our children and see them become responsible, loving individuals – we really are blessed to see a lot of the fruits of our labor.

Priest: Well, I get to be involved in people's lives on every level...from birth to death and everything in between.

Married Couple: Yeah, but we get to be a part of our children's lives – an intimate part of everything they do – watching them grow and experience life!

Priest: Well, I get to have children and then send them home when they get out of control. And besides, my Boss is GOD! Like who can top that?

Married Couple: Wasn't that a "bad" thing ten minutes ago?! So . . . who do you get to go home to at night? We always have each other – someone to be close to, someone to share your every thought with.

Priest: Yeah, it may be lonely for me at times, but people always trust me, and come to me with their deepest needs – that's a special place to be!

Married Couple: Well . . . we get to have . . . SEX!

Priest: Well . . . I get to celebrate . . . MASS!!

MC: (taunting still going on between couple and priest) Okay, okay – you guys are really competitive!! Thank you though – thank you for sharing your lives with us tonight – thank you for helping see the challenges, but even more importantly, the blessings of your vocations . . . let's have a big hand for our special guests tonight!!!

MC: There's one more thing I want to ask each of you to do though. I'd like to ask you to share what it means to you to live YOUR vocation. Tell us how this "Sacrament" has changed your life.

Married Couple: Well, the Sacrament of Matrimony forever changed our lives, because the two of us became ONE. We were no longer living for just ourselves, but now for each other too, and then for our children. It really was like a fork in the road: God brought us to a completely different journey - one we are on together.

The Sacrament gives us grace that strengthens our love for each other and helps us to become more holy (CCC #1641). The way we look at it, we aren't just married to each other, we are married together with Christ. He is the bond between us, He is at the center

of our lives and of our family, and He is the one who holds us all together.

MC: You know, Mr. and Mrs. _____, one of the things we have been doing all semester with the other Sacraments is talking a little about the different components of a Sacrament, what we call the Form, the Matter and the Minister. For the Sacrament of Matrimony, the Minister is unique – different from all the other Sacraments. Who is the Minister for the Sacrament of Matrimony?

Married Couple: We are! Like you said, the minister is different with this Sacrament – the couple themselves are the minister (CCC #1623), and the "words", or like you said, the Form of the Sacrament, are the vows we exchange with each other.

MC: Oh good – that's what I was going to ask next – and what about the "Matter" – the earthly stuff of this Sacrament?

Married Couple: Well, real simply – it's . . . sex (CCC #1627, #1640). The couple "consummate" their marriage the first time they make love – and this is where the vows we exchanged find their fulfillment – in the total giving of ourselves to each other. It's also one of the reasons why it is so important to keep sexual intercourse until marriage – it's one of the components of your Sacrament – you don't want to use it before it's time, with another person than it was meant for.

MC: Awesome – thank you so much for what you have shared with us. I'm not sure if you have ever read this quote from Tertullian – it's in the Catechism – but it really captures the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony (it would be good to have this quote on a PowerPoint slide for everyone to see – or have it copied on a small card that you can hand out):

How can I ever express the happiness of a marriage joined by the Church, strengthened by an offering, sealed by a blessing, announced by angels, and ratified by the Father? . . . How wonderful the bond between two believers, now one in hope, one in desire, one in discipline, one in the same service! They are both children of one Father and servants of the same Master, undivided in spirit and flesh, truly two in one flesh. Where the flesh is one, one also is the spirit. CCC #1642

MC: And Father, can you share how the Sacrament of Holy Orders has changed you?

Priest: Yes, I feel the same way, the Sacrament of Holy Orders has forever changed me. In fact, that change is literal. In the Sacrament of Holy Orders - the one being ordained has an "indelible" mark conferred on them - just like in Baptism (CCC #1582). It is a permanent mark of spiritual character, that changed me forever.

And like Mr. and Mrs. _____, I'm not alone. It's sort of like I am married to Christ and to the Church. My family is YOU, and all the people of God, and my dinner table is the altar! In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, there is a special grace of the Holy Spirit that I receive that "ordains" me, sets me aside as a Priest for Christ and the Church, a special grace to be holy and to minister in the "Person of Christ". When I administer the Sacraments, it is CHRIST acting through me - that's where the power of the Priesthood comes from - Jesus!

MC: And Father, what about the Form, Matter and Minister for the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

Priest: Well the Bishop is always the Minister of Holy Orders, for all three degrees - Bishop, Priest or Deacon. The Bishop lays hands on the head of the one to be ordained - that's the "matter" - and says a prayer of consecration - that's the "form" or the words. The consecration prayer is pretty long - and it's different for each of the three degrees (CCC #1573, #1586 and #1587).

MC: Father, I loved what you said there - about acting in the "person of Christ". Listen to this everyone - these references from the Catechism show what Father means (Put these quotes on PowerPoint or have copies on small cards to hand out to teens):

It is the same priest, Christ Jesus, whose sacred person his minister truly represents. Now the minister, by reason of the sacerdotal consecration which he has received, is truly made like the high priest and possesses the authority to act in the power and place of the person of Christ himself. Pope Pius XII, CCC #1548

Christ is the source of all priesthood: the priest of the old law was a figure of Christ, and the priest of the new law acts in the person of Christ. St. Thomas Aquinas, CCC #1548

MC: Well, we want to thank Fr. _____
and Mr. and Mrs. _____ for being
here with us tonight.

(Allow time for applause)

You have been such a blessing to us tonight, and what
you have shared with us has been life-giving and
inspirational. Thank You!!

MC: I want to just rap this all up by bringing us back
to God's Plan. Remember the Plan - you should prob-
ably be able to say it to me by now:

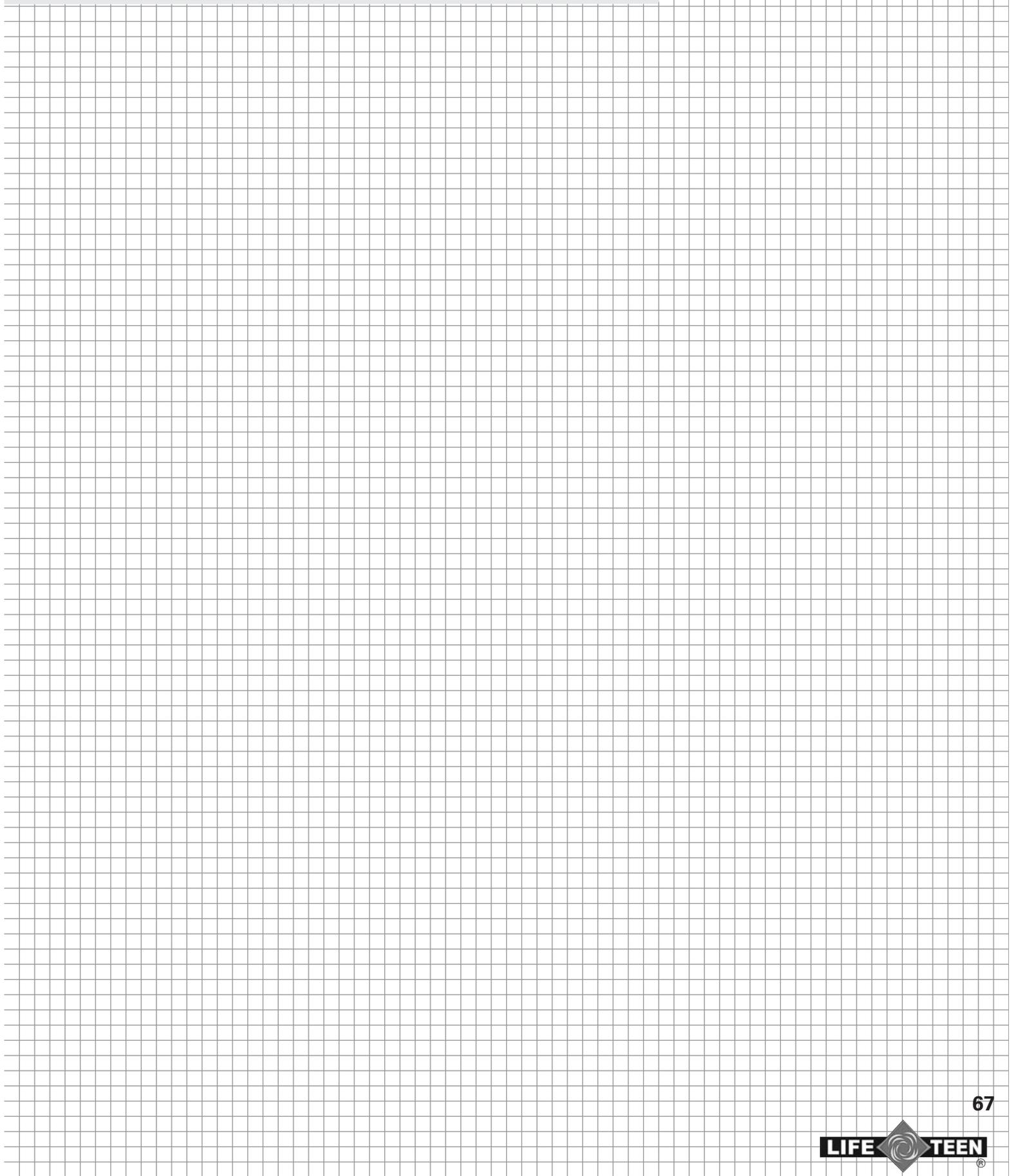
1. God loves us – He made us and created us out of
His love for us.
2. Because He loves us, He wants us to participate in
His very life.
3. He knew though that we would prefer ourselves
over Him, that we would choose to sin, and because
of our sin would be eternally separated from Him,
with no way, on our own, to reach Him.
4. So He sent His only Son to take the punishment for
our sin, and to reconcile us to Him – Jesus became
man to carry out God's Plan.
5. Then Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to give us the
grace, the power, and the strength we would need to
follow Him.
6. Jesus also set up the Church as the "vessel"
through which the Holy Spirit and all His graces could
flow to us.
7. The Church then gave us the seven "Sacraments" as
the "Channels" of that grace.

In order for the plan to be carried out, God had to set
up "Ministers" to be vessels of His grace, His life - so
He instituted the Priesthood. He also had to set up a
Sacrament to give grace to other lay men and women
who were called to the special vocation of married life
and who would be raising up children in the faith.
These two Sacraments, like all the others, help to
carry out God's plan.

Where are you at in your journey - what are the
"signs" you are seeing - is there a "Fork in the Road"
ahead for you - What call has God given to you?



ROOM PLANNING GUIDE





FORK ^{IN THE} ROAD

LIFE NIGHT CHECKLIST

- LIFE Night planning team receives a copy of "FORK IN THE ROAD". Each member reads through the LIFE Night, scripture references, and Catechism references before the initial planning meeting.

1 MONTH PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- LIFE Night planning team meets, prays, and discusses the LIFE Night. The team assesses where the teens are in their faith journey and makes necessary changes and adjustments to the LIFE Night so it will reach the teens of the parish. The team decides who is responsible for the main elements in the night.
 - Environment _____
 - Animal Matching Game _____
 - Introductions / Prize give-away _____
 - Teaching "FORK IN THE ROAD" _____
 - Discerning Gifts Game _____
 - Small Groups _____
 - Vocation Prayer Time _____

2 WEEKS PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- LIFE Night planning team turns in a detailed sheet of the night including any changes and/or adjustments to the Youth Minister, listing everyone on the team and their responsibilities.
- Teens and Core who will be used for skits/teaching should be picked and given scripts/teaching.

1 WEEK PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- Prepare Animal Cards for Game
- Prepare Small Group Questions
- Teachings should be delivered and practiced to the Youth Minister. Youth Minister should give feedback.

2-3 DAYS PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- Run a dress rehearsal for the LIFE Night.
 - Who is running lights?
 - Who is running video?
 - Who is running audio?

1 DAY PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT

- Finalize everything for the Environment
- Purchase supplies for Discerning Gifts Game

2 HOURS BEFORE MASS & LIFE NIGHT

- Set up Environment
- Team talks through night to make sure transitions are ready.
- Make sure the room is clean and presentable. Be sure all cords and cables are taped down and hidden out of the way.
- Prep the rest of the CORE on the details of the night.
- Pray for the success of the night and the teens who will attend the night. Pray over those giving a talk.