

Youth Bible Study

January 20, 2002

Leader's Guide

This Bible study is the third part in the RSVP series which is designed to assist congregations in encouraging people to enter into a full-time church work position. In the first part, the focus was on the role of the family in nurturing church workers. Last year's focus was on the role of the congregation in encouraging future church workers. This year's focus is the role that our seminaries and our university college have in educating church workers.

This Bible study was written for young people in your congregation who are between the ages of 13 and 18. As a youth leader, I have gotten to know the youth in my church quite well, and have seen the gifts that each of them have. Our job is to encourage the youth to use these gifts in whichever profession they choose to follow, but also to encourage those with gifts that are suited for church work professions: pastors, teachers and directors of parish services (DPS). Keep your youth in your prayers, especially as you prepare for this Bible study, that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts as they consider their future.

Study Objectives:

By working through this study, each youth will:

- identify some of the different ways that they are taught
- understand the trust that is required to learn from someone
- realize the importance of Christian education
- recognize the need to have a qualified teachers

Materials:

- Bibles
- a book written in a foreign language (Check with your pastor about a book in Greek or Hebrew!)
- blindfold
- chocolate bars
- copies of the cross picture
- scissors
- a catalogue/calendar or flyer from Concordia University College of Alberta and our two Lutheran seminaries

Location:

If possible, arrange for the Hidden Object activity to be done in an open room, or somewhere that doesn't contain too many objects to run into.

Part One: The Need for an Education

- As the youth are arriving, and sitting down, pass around a book, preferably one in Greek or Hebrew, and ask them to read a passage from it.
- If there are no volunteers, ask them why they won't read it.
- When you get a response about not knowing the language, etc, ask if any of them could learn the language from looking at this book. Give them an opportunity to respond, then:

Introduce the Topic

- Today's study is about education.
- Where can you get an education?
- Who can give it to you?
- Why would you want one?
- Read Acts 7:20-22
- Moses was able to be a good leader of God's people because he was educated. His education with the Egyptians was a preparation for what was to follow. God can use the education we receive at school and different events in our lives to teach us what we need to know to follow Him better.

Part Two: The Need to Listen and Follow

Activity: Communication Puzzle

Objective:

The youth should learn how to verbally communicate clear instructions or how to listen to and follow clear verbal instructions.

What you will need:

Scissors

Copies of the cross puzzle which follows

Instructions:

- Make a copy of the cross for each of your students, but have half of the crosses cut out into pieces.
- Pair up the students, and have them sit with their backs together. Tell them that they will be making a puzzle, with one person having the pieces and the other giving instructions on how to put them together.
- Hand out a picture of the cross to one of them and the pieces to another, but tell those who have the picture not to tell the others what the picture is. Give them five minutes to try to put the puzzle together, with one person putting it together and the other telling them how.
- When the exercise is finished, you can ask them the following questions:

- How did you feel when you were giving the instructions?
- How did you feel when you were trying to follow them?
- If you were putting the puzzle together, were you tempted to ignore the instructions and just try to do it on your own? Why? Did it work?
- Read Luke 10:38-42; John 10:25-30; and James 1:22-25
- What are these passages trying to point out? (Listen to what Jesus says, and then follow what He says)

Part Three: The Need for a Good Teacher (Who Should You Listen To?)

Activity: Hidden Object

Objective:

The object of this exercise will be to show youth that although you can learn things in many ways, the best way to learn something is to have someone teach you, particularly someone that you can trust to teach you correctly.

What you will need:

4 chocolate bars

1 blindfold

1 open room that someone can walk in blindfolded without injuring themselves.

4 volunteers

- Have each volunteer leave the room before it's their turn while you explain to the class what they are supposed to do.
- Put a blindfold on your first volunteer and let them know what they're looking for, and that they have one minute to find it. While they are still outside the room, hide the chocolate bar and remind the class to sit quietly, then let the volunteer in. When the minute is up, have them take off the blindfold and sit down. (If they didn't find it, you can give them the chocolate bar after the class is over.)
- Put a blindfold on the second volunteer and repeat the process, but this time put the chocolate bar in a different place and this time instruct the rest of the group that they should shout out instructions to him/her - half of them shouting out the wrong instructions and half of them shouting out the right ones. If they haven't found it when the minute was up, have them take off the blindfold and sit down.
- Repeat the whole process again, but this time, instead of giving them a minute to find it, have one of the other youth go up, get the chocolate bar, and give it to them. Then have them take off the blindfold and sit down.-
- For the final volunteer, give them a minute to find the chocolate bar, but this time ask one of the other youth to give them correct verbal instructions on how to find the chocolate bar. After the minute is over or the chocolate bar is found, have them take off the blindfold and sit down.
- After all four volunteers have had their turn, ask the following questions:
- To the four volunteers: How did this experience make you feel?

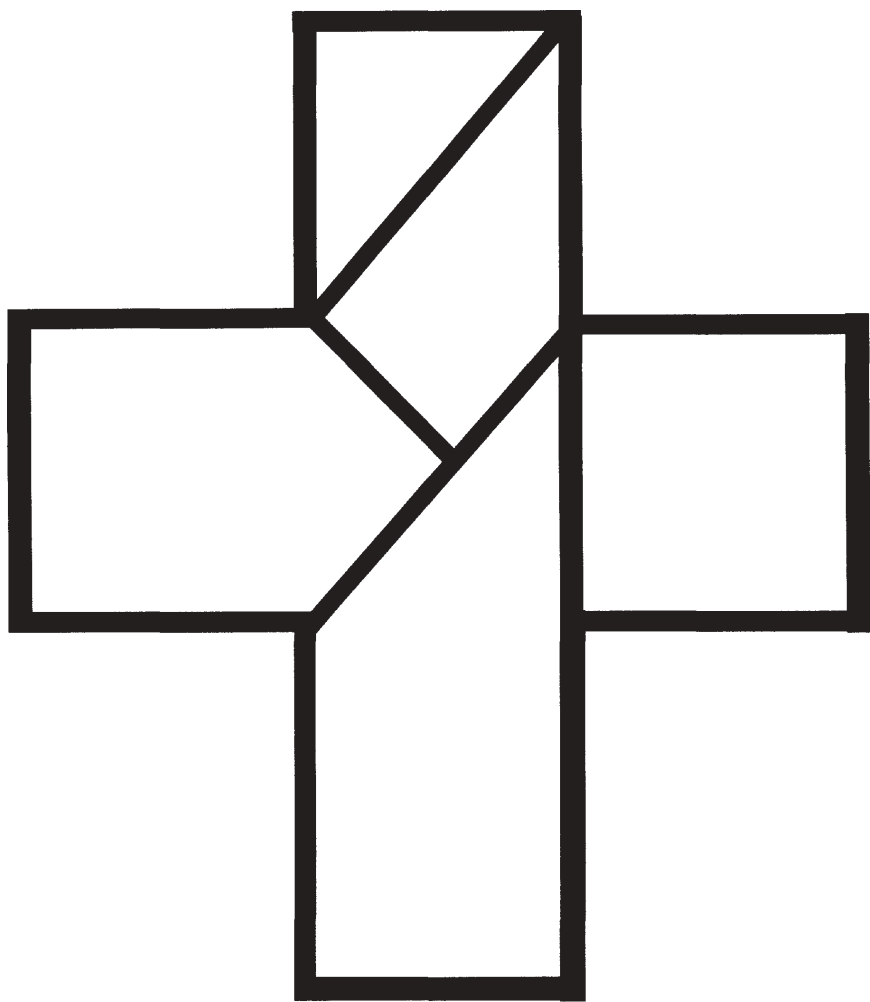
- To the class: How did it feel to watch them try to find the chocolate bars?
- To the four volunteers: What did you learn when you were trying to find the chocolate bars?
- To the class: What was the point of this exercise?
- Have someone read Ecclesiastes 9:17 and Proverbs 13:20.
- There are many ways to learn, and many different teachers in life. Some teachers will just let you figure it out on your own; some teachers won't teach you the truth or the right things; some teachers will just give you the answers; and some teachers will give you good instructions in how to find the answers.
- Have the youth give some examples of times that people have taught them in these different ways.
- Which kind of teacher is the best to have?

Part Four: The Need for a Christian Education

- What's the difference between education and Christian education? (You can point out that while Christian education is taught in church or in the family, there is also education in a Christian setting.)
- Why do people need a Christian education?
- Do you need Christian education when you're in public school? Why/why not?
- What about when you are in post-secondary school?
- What good is a Christian education?
- Who specifically needs to be trained in a Christian school? Why?
- Where can you get a Christian training?
- At this point, you can show your students any material you may have from Concordia University College of Alberta or one of the seminaries.
- Have someone read Romans 15:14-16.
- What responsibility comes with receiving a Christian education?
- In this passage, Paul is reminding the Romans of the education that they received about Jesus and living a Christian life. They needed to be encouraged to remember what they had been taught and make it a part of their lives and then reach out to teach others.
- For an extra point of interest, you can have the youth find someone within their congregation who is attending or has attended a Lutheran post-secondary institution and ask them these questions, then report back at your next meeting with the responses.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, please be with each one of us as we continue to grow in knowledge of You and Your will for us. Help us as we consider our future career choices and how we can use the gifts that You have given us to reach out to others with Your message of love and forgiveness. Be with and bless those who are studying to be church workers now, and those who are considering it. In Your Son's name, Amen.



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Student's Sheet

Part One: The Need for an Education

- Where can you get an education?
- Who can give it to you?
- Why would you want one?
- Read Acts 7:20-22

Part Two: The Need to Listen and Follow

Activity: Communication Puzzle

- How did you feel when you were giving the instructions?
- How did you feel when you were trying to follow them?
- If you were putting the puzzle together, were you tempted to ignore the instructions and just try to do it on your own? Why? Did it work?
- Read Luke 10:38-42; John 10:25-30; and James 1:22-25
- What are these passages trying to point out?

Part Three: The Need for a Good Teacher (Who Should You Listen To?)

Activity: Hidden Object

- To the four volunteers: How did this experience make you feel?
- To the class: How did it feel to watch them try to find the chocolate bars?
- To the four volunteers: What did you learn when you were trying to find the chocolate bars?
- To the class: What was the point of this exercise?

- Read Ecclesiastes 9:17 and Proverbs 13:20.
- Give some examples of times that people have taught them in these different ways.
- Which kind of teacher is the best to have?

Part Four: The Need for a Christian Education

- What is Christian education?
- What's the difference between education and Christian education?
- Is there a difference?
- Why do people need a Christian education?
- Do you need Christian education when you're in public school? Why?
- What about when you are in post-secondary school? What good does it do?
- Who specifically needs to be trained in a Christian school? Why?
- Where can you get one?
- Have someone read Romans 15:14-16.
- What responsibility comes with receiving a Christian education?

Websites:

Lutheran Church–Canada	www.lutheranchurch.ca
Concordia University College of Alberta	www.concordia.ab.ca
Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary	www.brocku.ca/concordiaseminary
Concordia Lutheran Seminary	www.concordiasem.ab.ca



Prepare for Action–RSVP02 is a recruitment initiative of Lutheran Church–Canada which asks members of congregations to identify men and women whom they believe have the gifts and talents for church work vocations.