

PMR First Third Ministry

Youth Group Program Outline

Week of June 7 – June 13, 2020

Theme: “How do you YOLO during COVID?”

Purpose of this Outline:

- This resource is for your use with the Youth in your Community of Faith as we continue to meet online and to help inspire conversations of action and social justice with the Youth
 - You are more than welcome to see this outline as a jumping off point, for inspiration, do not feel the need that you need to follow it exactly! Each Youth Group is different, so you can tailor it to your context

Preparation:

- It is important to send an email to all of your Youth Group families (if you send it to your youth or their parents/guardians email addresses) that includes the Zoom meeting link and any materials that the Youth might need for your online gathering
 - I like to send the emails to both the Youth and their Parents/Guardians email addresses because it gives both parties an opportunity to discuss the theme of the Youth Group as a family and how it might apply to them
 - Youth will need to gather a notebook and writing utensil beforehand
- Security Measures for Zoom
 - Enable the “**waiting room**” function when scheduling your Zoom meeting because it allows you to monitor who is coming into the meeting and decline those who you do not know
 - It is key to always use a **Meeting password** when scheduling a Zoom meeting because it makes it more difficult for hackers to get into your online gathering
 - Only send your Zoom meeting link and details to your participants and their families because if you happen to post the meeting details on any social media platform (even if it might be a ‘private group’) it makes it easier for hackers to infiltrate your meeting
- Gathering of any supplies needed for Online gathering: Christ Candle, Lighter/Matches,

Program Outline (60 minutes of total programming)

- **Opening** (2-3 Minutes)
 - Greet each Youth by name as they log on to the Zoom Meeting
 - Remind Youth that it is important for safety that they keep their Video function on and so that they can fully engage in the online gathering
 - Lighting of the Christ Candle
 - Feel free to say whatever words you like to say as you light the Christ Candle to start the gathering (I tend to use the words from Godly Play by saying “There was once someone who said and did amazing things that people started to follow him, and as they followed him they just had to ask him who he was, and one time when they asked him he said, I am the Light of the World”)
- **Check-in** (5 minutes)
 - Check-in Question
 - What has been the best advice you have ever received?
 - What does YOLO mean to you and have you ever practiced it?
 - Just an FYI, YOLO means ‘You only live once’, just thought I’d include that...

- **Devotional/Bible Study** (12-14 minutes)

- Ask one of the Youth (or yourself if no one volunteers) to read Psalm 27:1-14 from the NRSV translation of the Bible
 - Passage:
 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold[a] of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up. Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!
 - After the passage has been read, pose a few questions to the group
 - Questions:
 - When you hear this passage, what does it make you feel?
 - Is it realistic to always be fearless, courageous, and confident like David states in this Psalm?
 - Especially during the times that we are in right now, does it feel hard to embrace the feeling of YOLO?
 - Allow Youth to watch this video:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5KQMXDiM4>
 - Even though this is a made up, ask youth what they feel after they have watched it.
 - Questions:
 - What are people in the future going to think of when they look at this event as an event in history?
 - When we look back on this time, were we truly living our YOLO lives?
 - I wonder what God thinks of YOLO?
 - I like to think that God wants us to live YOLO by being truly and utterly ourselves, to love one another as people and not objects, to care for creation and be good stewards of it, and to fight for what is right, not just convenient.

- **Action** (8-10 minutes)

- YOLO Word Hunt
 - You will list off one at a time, a phrase relating to YOLO and our faith journey. Every time you share a phrase, allow the youth to write something that comes to mind when

they hear the phrase. Once everyone has written down their response, allow youth to share what they wrote with the group

- Phrases:
 - What does YOLO mean to me?
 - Being true to myself
 - Loving others despite of differences
 - How can I be fearless?
 - And you are welcome to come up with any others that might inspire you and your youth!
- **Closing** (2-3 minutes)
 - “Dear God, we thank you for the beautiful life we have been given, with all the good things and the negative things, we are grateful. Help us to live our lives with confidence knowing that we are truly loved by you, and to share that with others. In Jesus’ name. Amen”