

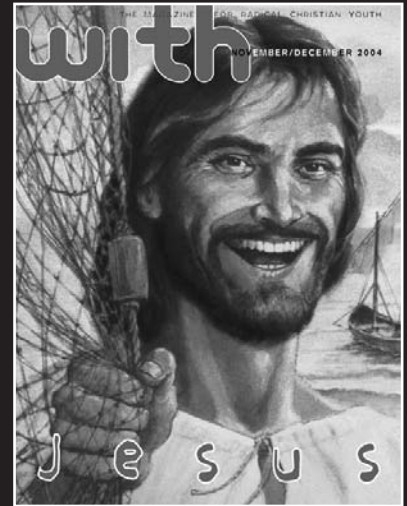
WITH THE LESSON

WONDERING WHAT TO TEACH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH?

WITH THE LESSON – Take a great read, add creative lessons, and what do you get? WITH THE LESSON! These online sessions are designed to help you use With Magazine as a ready-to-go teaching tool, and are perfect for youth group meetings or Sunday mornings. Here’s one FREE session; you’ll find more at the new website YMRoadTrip.org. If you’re not currently receiving With, call 1-800-245-7894 to begin a subscription for you and your youth.

AND WHAT IS THIS YMROADTRIP.ORG?

YMROADTRIP is a new website which seeks to nurture youth ministry with easy-to-use, creative, Anabaptist Bible studies, devotions, and connecting sessions from WITH. **Check it out!**



November/December 2004: “JESUS” TOUGH CALLS

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

1. Copies of Nov/Dec WITH Magazine for each student.
2. Contact a student prior to class and ask them to present the poem “Tattoo” on page 20 of WITH. If possible, it should be memorized—either way, it should be presented dramatically and not just read. *Option: do it yourself.*
3. Bibles for each student
4. Non-permanent markers
5. Poster paper
6. Digital camera and laptop to show the pictures
7. *Optional: computer with scripture reference software*

FOCUS (10-15 min.)

1. Welcome students to class, and say that you have a big question to ask them. Say: **IF this class would leave right now and go to a tattoo shop, who would be ready to go along and get a tattoo? If so, stand up and point to the spot where you’d get the tattoo. If not, stay seated, cross your arms and say “No way.” Nobody can be undecided—it’s either yes or no right now.** After the youth have declared their intentions, talk about it. Was it easy to decide? Why or why not?
2. Invite the youth you contacted earlier to present the poem “Tattoo.”
3. Hand out WITH magazines to all students. Ask them to turn to page 20, to read the three poems on that page, and be prepared to share which one they like the most or identify with the most, and why.



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CONNECT WITH THE CONTENT (15-20 min.)

1. Divide the class into guys in one group, girls in the other. (If you have a large class, make more than one group of each sex.) **Ask the guys to turn to page 12 and read the story “Works for Me,” and the girls to read “The Peacock Sari,” which begins on page 9.** They may choose to take turns reading or read it silently.
2. After they’ve completed their stories, ask them to answer the following questions:

GUYS: Zach heard Jesus call him to do at number of things that were tough to do. Name those tough calls.

(Answers: Have Jesus over for dinner. Giving money to the poor. Giving money back to those he’d cheated. Staying true to his promise every time he collects taxes.)

GIRLS: Mitali had ideas of what she wanted to do after her sari was torn, but she heard God calling her to do something else. What were Mitali’s tough calls?

(Answers: Speaking angrily to the woman. Firing the woman. Refusing to buy the woman a sari. Refusing to forgive the woman and offer her grace.)

3. After the guys and girls have discussed the questions, ask them to share their story with the whole group, along with the tough calls that happened to the characters in their stories.
4. Ask students to open their Bibles and find examples of the tough calls that Jesus gives his followers. Allow some time for them to search before you offer any suggested passages. If necessary, suggest **Matthew 5,6,7; Mark 10:17-29; or Luke 6:20-42.**

OPTION: *Bring a laptop to class with Bible reference software on it, or take the students to your pastor’s office if that computer includes reference materials.*

APPLY (10-15 min.)

Ask each student to choose one of Jesus’ instructions (from the previous activity) that is hard for them to do but that they’d like to work on.

OPTION 1: *Tell students to take markers and create “tattoos” on each other that state their “tough call” that they want to work on. They can use words or symbols. Examples: Don’t judge. Love enemy. Pray for backstabbers.*

OPTION 2: *Ask students to choose one of the following ways to express the tough call(s) they need to work on: 1) create a skit, 2) write a poem, 3) write a rap song, 4) create a cartoon, 5) do an illustration, 6) take photos that illustrate it and show them on the laptop.*

Whether you use option 1 or 2, ask students to share what they did with the class.

RESPOND (5 min.)

Ask students to hold the WITH in their hands, study the picture on the cover, and imagine what Jesus is saying to them. Allow for a moment of silence as they do this. Then ask them to close their eyes as you read, slowly, the circle poem on page 19. Pause between the two sentences. **End with these words: Go now, feeling blessed by Jesus.**



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