

Exploring
Liturgical Seasons
with Young Adolescents

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Pray It! Study It! Live It!® resources
offer a holistic approach
to learning, living, and passing on the Catholic faith.

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Introduction

EXPLORING LITURGICAL SEASONS WITH YOUNG ADOLESCENTS: AN OVERVIEW

We experience and express our faith in various ways. One way is through the celebration of the liturgical seasons. The liturgical seasons celebrate our community's faith journey and highlight the teachings that are the core of who we are as Christian people. The sessions and additional activities in *Exploring Liturgical Seasons with Young Adolescents* follow the Study It! Live It! Pray It!® format. These three components comprise a 60-minute session for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, followed by additional activities that may be incorporated into the session or used independently. In the Study It! and Live It! components, the participants explore the session theme in depth through the Scriptures, activities, and discussion. Ministry leaders present additional background and other information to periodically augment the participants' work. The Pray It! component gives the young people an opportunity to bring their insights and concerns to God in prayer. Prayer experiences range from 5 to 20 minutes.

Each session in this leader's guide points to the readings for a designated day or week of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The activities highlight core ideas, themes, images, symbols, and meanings of the seasons. Each session encourages and challenges young adolescents to uncover what it means to be Jesus's disciple, how to act on the call to discipleship within their parish or school community, and how God works in and through their lives.

How to Use This Guide

The sessions and activities in this leader's guide are meant to be used independently. You can use them all in a single year, or you can space them out over several years of your young adolescent program. Each session begins with a brief overview and a listing of the Scripture readings for the season. The next element is a suggested schedule—a starting point that can be modified according to your circumstances. Each activity begins with a checklist of required materials and preparation, followed by a complete description of the activity procedure. Following each liturgical season session is a collection of additional activities that allow you to extend a session to 90 minutes or longer. These activities will help the young people connect with the readings and symbols of the liturgical season.

Preparing Yourself

Read each session or activity before you facilitate it; then use it creatively to meet the needs of the young people in your group. Knowing your audience will help you determine which strategies work best. Some of the activities require preparation. Allow yourself adequate time to get ready.

Standard Materials

To save time, consider gathering frequently used materials in bins and storing those bins in a place accessible to all staff and volunteer leaders. Following are some recommendations for organizing the bins:

Supply Bin

The following items appear frequently in the materials checklists:

- *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* or other Bibles, one for each participant
- tape
- markers
- pens or pencils
- self-stick notes
- scissors
- newsprint
- sheets of loose-leaf paper, scrap paper, or notebook paper
- index cards
- baskets
- candles and matches
- items to create a prayer space (for example, a colored cloth, a cross, a bowl of water, and a vase for flowers)

Chapter 1

Session for the Advent Season

Overview

Young people are often criticized for having an attitude—a feeling, a particular approach, or a perspective on any given subject. But young Christians should have certain attitudes. Advent calls Christians to be joyful, patient, willing, prayerful, and intentional. Advent is also an opportunity to reflect on our sinfulness so that we can be ready to accept the gift of the birth of Christ into our lives. Entering the season of Advent year after year is good because we often need that time of renewal to “readjust our attitude.”

We recall not only how people welcomed Jesus two thousand years ago, but also, once again, that Christ is present today. We take a cue from the Scriptures, which invite us to have an Advent attitude of awareness of God’s presence in the world and in all people.

In this session, the participants explore the call of servanthood in the Advent Scriptures and identify ways to make attitude adjustments as they prepare for the Christmas season. They will practice the skills of faith sharing and using the Bible, as well as creating handicrafts.

Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

- **Cycle A:** Isaiah 2:1–5; Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:37–44
- **Cycle B:** Isaiah 63:16–17,19; 64:2–7; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:33–37
- **Cycle C:** Jeremiah 33:14–16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2; Luke 21:25–28,34–36

Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

- **Cycle A:** Isaiah 11:1–10; Romans 15:4–9; Matthew 3:1–12
- **Cycle B:** Isaiah 40:1–5,9–11; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8
- **Cycle C:** Baruch 5:1–9; Philippians 1:4–6,8–11; Luke 3:1–6

Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent

- **Cycle A:** Isaiah 35:1–6,10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11
- **Cycle B:** Isaiah 61:1–2,10–11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8,19–28
- **Cycle C:** Zephaniah 3:14–18; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

- **Cycle A:** Isaiah 7:10–14; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24
- **Cycle B:** 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8–12, 14, 16; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38
- **Cycle C:** Micah 5:1–4; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45

At a Glance

Icebreaker Attitude Charades (10 minutes)

STUDY IT! Scriptural Attitudes (20 minutes)

LIVE IT! An Advent Attitude Adjustment (20 minutes)

PRAY IT! Put on Christ (10 minutes)

Icebreaker

Attitude Charades (10 minutes)

Materials and Preparation

- Gather the following items:
 - index cards, one set of eight for each small group
 - newsprint
 - a marker
- On each card in a set, write a different attitude word from the following list:
 - mean
 - excited
 - in love
 - bored
 - worried
 - silly
 - sorry
 - pleased

1. Divide the participants into small groups of five to eight. Then distribute one set of index cards to each small group, telling the participants to keep the cards face down so no one can see what's written on them.

2. Review with the groups the following rules of charades:

- One group member, the actor, at a time will choose an index card and act out the word written on that card. All other members of your group will try to guess what that person is doing. Once the group has guessed the correct word, another group member will choose a new index card, which contains a different word. Each member of the group must do at least one charade.
- The actor must not talk or make sounds and can use only gestures and facial expressions to convey the meaning of the word.
- In this game of charades, all the cards name an attitude—an emotion, approach, or perspective that affects behavior.
- The game ends with the first group to guess all eight attitudes.

3. Have each group designate its first “actor.” That person should then take the top card and silently read the word written on it. After all the actors have read their words, tell them to begin acting out their words.

4. Once a group has guessed all eight attitudes, stop the game. Ask the groups to each select their best charade actors to demonstrate how they acted out their attitude words. Make sure that all eight attitudes are demonstrated.

5. Close the icebreaker by inviting the young people to respond to the following questions:

- What does our attitude say about what we are truly thinking?
- What attitudes about Advent do you think a Christian should have? [List the responses to this question on newsprint and save it for step 6 of the “Scriptural Attitudes” activity.]
- What do these Advent attitudes say about how we are called to think and act in preparation for Christmas?

Variation. For added visual interest and application, ask the small groups to each come forward to act out one of the Advent attitudes listed on the newsprint from step 5.

STUDY IT! Scriptural Attitudes (20 minutes)

Materials and Preparation

- Gather the following items:
 - ❑ sheets of loose-leaf paper, one for each participant
 - ❑ pens or pencils
 - ❑ *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* or other Bibles, one for each small group
 - ❑ newsprint
 - ❑ markers
 - ❑ newsprint with the list of attitudes from the icebreaker

1. Divide the participants into three, six, or nine groups of four to eight people. The total number of groups should be divisible by three to correspond to the three Scripture readings from the current liturgical cycle for the present week of Advent.

2. Assign the three readings—first, second, and Gospel reading— one reading to a group. Continue assigning the same readings until all the groups have a reading. Have the young people locate their group’s assigned readings in the Bible.

3. Distribute the loose-leaf paper and pens or pencils and give the participants the following instructions:

- The readings you have been assigned are from the current liturgical cycle for the present week of Advent. Throughout Advent you will hear these and similar readings at Mass.
- Choose one member of your group to be the reader. The reader in your group will first silently read the assigned reading and then read the selected passage to your group.

- As you listen to the reading, think about this question: What does this Scripture reading tell us about how we should act or what kind of attitude we should have during Advent?
- During the reading, list as many answers to the question as possible on a sheet of loose-leaf paper and then be ready to share with your group.

4. Distribute one sheet of newsprint and a marker to each group. Instruct the readers to begin their readings, first silently and then to their groups. If during the reading, the young people are having difficulty answering the questions, suggest that they pay attention to the verbs the writer used, especially words in the imperative voice, such as *rejoice* and *give thanks*, or to instructions given by the writer of the Scripture readings. After the readers finish, have the young people share with the members of their groups their responses to the question they wrote during the reading. After sharing, they should then write their responses on the newsprint.

5. Invite one young person from each group to share the group's responses to the question, What does this Scripture reading tell us about how we should act or what kind of attitude we should have during Advent? Possible responses are "love," "confirm," "be not lacking in any spiritual gift," "pray earnestly," "put on Christ," and "live to please God."

6. Advise the young people that the lists they compiled contain words of action and attitude—emotions, feelings, ways of behaving. Their lists describe how the people hearing the readings are supposed to act in response to God's presence in their lives. Tell the young people their responses will help them determine what kind of attitude the writer is telling us we should have during Advent. Refer to the list generated in the opening icebreaker and note similarities and additions between that list and the lists compiled by the young people.

7. Summarize the activity by noting the following in these or similar words:
- One of the overriding attitudes that emerges in each reading is an awareness of God, along with a sense of waiting that is patient and not anxious.
 - These scriptural attitudes tend to be *countercultural*, meaning they are a contrast to what society, the media, and pop culture tend to focus on during Advent. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we often feel stressed and anxious as we try to fit in as many activities, parties, and shopping trips as possible before Christmas.
 - In addition, much of the writer's advice challenges the readers to have an attitude of repentance. This attitude should be marked by discernment, avoidance of sin, patient waiting, abstinence from evil, and following the commandments.
 - Our attitude as we prepare for Christmas demands that we turn away from selfishness and be open to the presence of God in Jesus Christ. An example is to focus on where we see the face of Jesus in other people during this season—our friends, those who are poor or homeless, our parents—and not to focus all the time on gifts we receive or on how many parties we attend.

LIVE IT! An Advent Attitude Adjustment (20 minutes)**Materials and Preparation**

- Gather the following items:
 - newsprint lists from “Scriptural Attitudes”
 - newsprint
 - a marker
 - tape
 - sheets of loose-leaf paper, one for each participant
 - pens or pencils
 - cups or bowls, each containing at least four types or colors of beads. Depending on the size of the beads, provide enough beads so that each participant can make at least one bracelet, necklace, or fob.
 - string, one 12-inch piece per participant

1. Have the participants gather in the same groups they were in during the “Scriptural Attitudes” activity. Return to each group its newsprint from that activity. Have the groups each brainstorm ways their members can practice the Advent attitudes they found in their Scripture passage. Allow 3 to 5 minutes for brainstorming. Challenge the participants to name concrete ways they will practice joy, demonstrate love to others, be patient, and so on.

2. Next, ask the groups to choose their five best Advent-attitudes practices from the list they compiled on their newsprint.

3. Allow a few minutes for the groups to make their choices. Each group should then select one group member to present the group’s five best Advent-attitudes practices. List those practices on newsprint and then post the newsprint where everyone can see it.

4. Invite the large group to study for a few moments the list of Advent attitudes on the posted newsprint. Then ask them to vote (by voice or by hand) on the top ten Advent attitudes they would like to practice. Direct the young people to write their choices on a sheet of loose-leaf paper and then circle the four they most want to work on during this Advent season.

5. Place the cups or bowls of beads in the center of the room. Distribute the string. Invite the participants to each choose four different styles or colors of beads. Tell them to add the beads to their string—using only the four styles or colors they chose—to create a bracelet, a necklace, or a fob for their knapsack. The beaded item they create will be a reminder of the four Advent practices they chose to help them have an Advent attitude. Suggest that they focus on one of the four Advent practices during each of the four weeks of Advent and encourage them to share their commitment with a family member or the entire family.

6. If appropriate, invite the participants to share their bead creations, including their four practices, with their small groups.

PRAY IT! Put on Christ (10 minutes)

Materials and Preparation

- Gather the following items:
 - ❑ words and lyrics to “The Servant Song,” by Richard Gillard, or another song familiar to the participants. Choose a song with a theme related to service in the community, awareness of actions, thinking of others, or God’s calling.
 - ❑ *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* or another Bible
 - ❑ copies of handout 1–A, “Put on Christ,” one for each participant
- Choose a reading or a portion of a reading from the current liturgical cycle for the present week of Advent. The selection should specifically remind the reader to put on Christ, act like Christ, or follow the Word of God.

1. Gather everyone into a circle. Open prayer by inviting the participants to join in singing the selected song.

2. Continue prayer in the following manner:

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We gather together, rooted in the presence of God, to praise him with hearts full of the awareness of God’s presence, waiting patiently for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us open our ears to hear the Word of God.

3. Proclaim the reading you chose.

4. Invite the young people to briefly share with a partner how they will put on Christ this Advent season—by being kind to others, participating in service to the community, praying for peace, and so on. Suggest that they recall examples from the previous activities in this chapter. After a few moments, ask for volunteers to share with the whole group. Ask the volunteers how they know when God is present in acts of service, and invite their responses.

Variation. If as part of the LIVE IT! activity, the participants shared their bead creations with their small-group members, invite them now to also offer a personal prayer for each person in their group or for themselves as they journey through Advent. Suggest that they draw upon the Advent attitudes that the four beads represent.

5. Pray together the following “Prayer for the Spirit of Christian Joy”:

God of joy and gladness,
look upon us as we begin this Advent time.
Open our hearts and minds to the coming of your Son.
Fill our lives with the Spirit of anticipation
so that as we prepare for Christmas,
we will know the joy of your Love.
Let peace abound and let justice flourish,
that every nation on earth
will shout with the joy that comes through Jesus,
God with us, forever and ever. Amen.

Put on Christ

“Prayer for the Spirit of Christian Joy”

God of joy and gladness,
look upon us as we begin this Advent time.
Open our hearts and minds to the coming of your Son.
Fill our lives with the Spirit of anticipation
so that as we prepare for Christmas,
we will know the joy of your Love.
Let peace abound and let justice flourish,
that every nation on earth
will shout with the joy that comes through Jesus,
God with us, forever and ever. Amen.

Chapter 2

Activities for the Advent Season

Overview

You can use the prayers and activities in this chapter in the sessions you have planned for your young adolescents during Advent. This will help the young people relate their own life experience to the readings and symbols of the Advent season.

At a Glance

PRAY IT! Advent Wreath Blessing (10 minutes)

Each time you gather, use this activity to help the participants become familiar with the parish rituals and traditions of the season so that they will be able to participate fully in them.

LIVE IT! Watch While You Wait (15 minutes)

Use this activity as part of a session early in Advent to help the participants understand that Advent is a time for waiting.

LIVE IT! Dressed for Christ (15 minutes)

In this activity the participants learn that we must be ready to listen to John the Baptist's message and to prepare to recognize the messengers God sends us in our world today.

STUDY IT! The Immaculate Conception of Mary (10 minutes)

Use this activity to help the young people understand why we celebrate this feast.

LIVE IT! The Real Presence of Presents (10 minutes)

Use this activity to challenge the young people to think about gifts that are truly from the heart.

PRAY IT! Advent Wreath Blessing (10 minutes)

Each time you gather, use this activity to help the participants become familiar with the parish rituals and traditions of the season so that they will be able to participate fully in them.

Materials and Preparation

- Gather the following items:
 - ❑ an Advent wreath with three purple candles and one rose-colored candle
 - ❑ matches or a lighter

Chapter 3

Session for the Christmas Season

Overview

The Incarnation, or the real human presence of God, is a gift freely given to us by God. No one has to earn or deserve the love and joy given to us through the birth of the baby Jesus. So why do we concern ourselves with “preparing” during Advent if the gift of Christmas will be given to us anyway? Our relationship with God is similar to any other earthly relationship in that we are most fulfilled when we actively participate in that relationship. One way we fully participate in our relationship with God is to show the same love to others that God shows to us. This session allows the participants to focus on the concept of gift-giving and how Jesus calls forth a deeper understanding of what it means to give to another. The young people will explore, through film and Scripture, how to define personal giving.

Readings for Christmas Day

- **Cycles A, B, and C:** Isaiah 52:7–10; Hebrews 1:1–16; John 1:1–18 or John 1:1–5,9–14

At a Glance

Icebreaker Celebrating Christmas (15 minutes)

STUDY IT! Are You Ready? (25 minutes)

LIVE IT! Pay It Forward (10 minutes)

PRAY IT! Light in the Darkness (10 minutes)

Icebreaker

Celebrating Christmas (15 minutes)

Materials and Preparation

- Gather the following items:
 - two tables, one large enough to hold a variety of snacks and beverages
 - slips of paper, one for each participant
 - pens or pencils
 - a container large enough to hold the slips of paper
 - various snacks and beverages
 - small plates, bowls, or cups, one for each participant

Chapter 4

Activities for the Christmas Season

Overview

You can use the prayers and activities in this chapter in sessions you have planned for your young adolescents during Christmas. This will help the young people relate their own life experience to the readings and symbols of the Christmas season.

At a Glance

Icebreaker Stories of Light (20 minutes)

In this activity the young people are reminded that Christ is the Light of the World and that we are called to be a light for the world.

LIVE IT! Journey to the Inns: Las Posadas (30 minutes)

In this activity the young people reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter and are reminded of the importance of hospitality to others.

STUDY IT! Family Tree: Feast of the Holy Family (25 minutes)

Through exploration of the Scriptures, the participants come to know Jesus's extended family and specific ways our families can be more like Jesus's extended family.

STUDY IT! The Magi Return Press Conference (25 minutes)

In this activity the participants learn that the Feast of the Epiphany reminds us that welcome and hospitality are an important part of the Christian life.

STUDY IT! Jesus Is Just Like Us: Baptism of the Lord (20 minutes)

This activity helps the young people look beyond people's differences to see what is the same. The young people will learn to foster peace by seeking common ground.

LIVE IT! Christ Is Our Light (20 minutes)

In this activity the participants reflect on ways to become disciples who better live and reflect the light of Jesus.

PRAY IT! Peace Be with Us All (10 minutes)

This litany invites the young people to ask God for guidance through prayer.

Chapter 5

Session for the Lenten Season

Overview

When we examine our lives and find that we are capable of sinning, we are then called to conversion. Jesus called several people to conversion. He invited tax collectors, prostitutes, Pharisees, and more to repent, to receive the Good News, and to be faithful. Jesus was constantly turning the other cheek and giving people countless chances to follow him. He was persistent, probably because he knew that some people do lots of turning before they find themselves following Christ. Each day we can be tempted to fall away from God, and each day we are invited to once again adjust and tune our focus on Christ. God is constantly turning us and pointing us to his grace and mercy, even though we often turn away from God through our sin and selfishness. Do we have the courage to turn back to God? In this session the participants will find opportunities to adjust their focus on Christ and identify ways to stay focused on the Good News of the Gospel.

Readings for the First Sunday of Lent

- **Cycle A:** Genesis 2:7–9, 3:1–7; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11
- **Cycle B:** Genesis 9:8–15, 1 Peter 3:18–22, Mark 1:12–15
- **Cycle C:** Deuteronomy 26:4–10, Romans 10:8–13, Luke 4:1–13

Readings for the Second Sunday of Lent

- **Cycle A:** Genesis 12:1–4a, 2 Timothy 1:8b–10, Matthew 17:1–9
- **Cycle B:** Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Romans 8:31b–34; Mark 9:2–10
- **Cycle C:** Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 9:28b–36

Readings for the Third Sunday of Lent

- **Cycle A:** Exodus 17:3–7; Romans 5:1–2, 5–8; John 4:5–42
- **Cycle B:** Exodus 20:1–17, 1 Corinthians 1:22–25, John 2:13–25
- **Cycle C:** Exodus 3:1–8a, 13–15; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10–12; Luke 13:1–9

Chapter 6

Activities for the Lenten Season

Overview

You can use the prayers and activities in this chapter in the sessions you have planned for your young adolescents during Lent. This will help the young people relate their own life experience to the readings and symbols of the Lenten season.

At a Glance

Icebreaker Welcome to Mardi Gras (25–30 minutes)

This activity helps the young people mark the movement from the end of Ordinary Time to the beginning of Lent.

Icebreaker The Interruption of the “Now” (20 minutes)

Use this activity to challenge the young people to allow Lent to be a good interruption in their regular routine.

STUDY IT! The Agony of Temptation (20 minutes)

In this activity the participants read about the temptation of Jesus and examine the areas of their own lives they find most challenging.

STUDY IT! I Have Come to Make All Things New (20 minutes)

In this activity the young people explore Scripture readings from the various Sundays in Lent in order to identify things or situations that God might be calling us to make anew or transform.

LIVE IT! Penitential Attitude (20 minutes)

This creative activity has the young people create a Top 10 list of ways to “be hip with it” during Lent.

PRAY IT! Return to God (15 minutes)

Through prayer, the young people explore the symbols of Lent in this activity, in order to enter into a greater relationship with God and one another during the Lenten season.

PRAY IT! Committing to Practice (10 minutes)

Use this commitment service to help the young people carry out their Lenten promises of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Chapter 7

Session for the Easter Season

Overview

The ultimate joy of the Resurrection on Easter has arrived! The stone has been rolled away, Jesus is no longer in the tomb, his burial cloths have been left behind, and his disciples are stunned!

A dead Jesus is alive, sins are forgiven, life is eternal, and God has wonderful things in store for the newly charged Apostles. Life could hardly get any better! Fortunately, Jesus's message and mission are timeless. Young people may find it difficult to really grasp these amazing Easter facts of Resurrection, forgiveness, and eternal life. It may be difficult even to comprehend our mission as modern-day disciples.

In many of the post-Resurrection appearance narratives, the disciples struggled to recognize Jesus immediately. The Scriptures in the third week of Easter record Jesus appearing to the two traveling to Emmaus, to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem, and to the disciples while they were fishing. Each time Jesus appeared, they did not know him instantly. How is it that those closest to Jesus were not able to identify him? What barriers of mind or heart prevented the disciples from recognizing Jesus? We ask ourselves the same question: What blinds us to recognizing Jesus today?

This session examines the question of identifying Jesus Christ in our midst. The Scriptures are the starting point. The participants look at the narratives to determine what opened the eyes of the disciples to see Jesus. The participants then turn their attention to their own lives, exploring their experiences and relationships in light of Christ's presence. Through this process they uncover the obstacles that hinder their recognition of Christ in everyday life.

Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter

- **Cycle A:** Acts 2:42–47; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31
- **Cycle B:** Acts 4:32–35; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31
- **Cycle C:** Acts 5:12–16; Revelation 1:9–19; John 20:19–31

Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter

- **Cycle A:** Acts 2:14,22–28; 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35
- **Cycle B:** Acts 3:13–19; 1 John 2:1–5; Luke 24:35–48
- **Cycle C:** Acts 5:27–32,40–41; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

Chapter 8

Activities for the Triduum and the Easter Season

Overview

You can use the prayers and activities in this chapter in sessions you have planned for your young adolescents during the Triduum and the Easter Season. This will help the young people relate their own life experience to the readings and symbols of the Triduum and the Easter season.

At a Glance

Icebreaker “Piece” Be with You (10 minutes)

In this activity for Pentecost, the participants learn about the power of the Holy Spirit within each of them.

STUDY IT! Stinky Feet (30 minutes)

In this activity the young people learn about the various symbols involved in the Holy Thursday liturgy by visiting sensory stations, which ask them to look, listen, read, think, touch, feel, talk, and notice.

STUDY IT! Good Friday Sensory Stations (30 minutes)

This activity appeals to the senses of the youth in order to prepare them for the celebration of the Good Friday liturgy.

STUDY IT! The Easter Vigil: Learning Stations (60 minutes)

This activity will help the young people become better acquainted with the sights, sounds, and experiences that are celebrated during the Easter Vigil.

LIVE IT! Thomas in the Modern World (35 minutes)

In this activity the Scripture story of doubting Thomas springboards the young people into skits addressing modern-day examples of doubt and belief.

STUDY IT! Gospel Writers (30 minutes)

In this activity the participants become evangelists like the Gospel writers, offering their own versions of the Good News.

LIVE IT! Rearview Mirror Messages (30 minutes)

The Ascension brings Jesus’s earthly life full circle and calls us to evangelization. This activity enables the participants to evangelize by spreading the message through the creation of a craft.

Acknowledgments

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