Middle School Discipleship Formation (MSDF)

January 11, 2023

6:15 **So It Begins SSPP Gym**

 Be ready for kids to arrive in the Gathering Space. 2-3 outside, welcoming

 2-3 at Check-In table; The rest of us welcoming kids and talking with them

6:35 **Opening** **Gathering Space**

Head over to Gathering Space – Check-in table cleans up table, makes sure lights are off , etc

 **Opening Prayer** **Faith**

**60 Seconds with a Saint**: Brief overview of a Saint **Ellie**

6:40 **Small Group Breakout Sml Grp Breakout**

Break out by grade to our areas & do a check-in, to get them talking. Use one or two from the “Get-To-Know-You-Questions” or make up your own! Take your time with this – don’t rush!!

6:50 **Road Signs Sml Grp**

See the end for this fun game. It’s a GREAT way to introduce the purpose and point of John the Baptist. PLEASE ask questions if you don’t understand!

7:00 **Scripture** [**2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011523.cfm)

Read the Gospel: **John 1:29-34**

 Look it up (DO NOT just give them the page #), read out loud together, then discuss…

* Can someone summarize the reading for us?
	+ What stuck out for you?
* What are some titles of Jesus, some other ways we refer to Him? (*Lamb of God, Son of God, Prince of Peace, etc)*
	+ Who was John the Baptist? (*son of Elizabeth, Mary’s cousin, lived in the desert eating wild honey and locusts, baptized people I the river and preached about the coming of the Messiah – this is the moment he let’s people know Jesus is that Messiah*)
* How does John point the way to Jesus? (*varied answers)*
	+ How do you point the way to Jesus? Or How are you a gin pointing toward Jesus? (*varied answers)*

7:15 **Jesus Signs Small Groups**

Divide kids into groups of 2-4 and give each group a posterboard and some art supplies. Ask them to create a sign that could direct people today to Jesus. Be creative. Share at the end (7:30 – with kids explaining their design)

Wrap-up with some comments about their signs and how they can point the way to Jesus

7:40 **Closing Prayer Lrg Grp Gathering Space**

Closing Prayer **Lily**

Announcements: Next Class is Jan 25th **Powder Ridge** Feb 19, Reg by Jan 30

 **Winter Spectacle** – Jan 28-29, Reg by Jan 17

 Jan 21st - 3rd Sat **BINGO** at Assumption Nursing Home – online signup

 2 HSers outside as night ends to watch kids and make sure everyone gets home safely

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John’s testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the “Lamb of God” and the “Son of God.” By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus’ ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John’s baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus’ ministry. The purpose of John’s baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist’s sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John’s witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

**Road Sign Game**

**I will have various pictures of traffic/road signs prepped (still deciding if paper copies or digital). One set for each small group.**

**Set this up as a game show – so have fun with it. Make one of you the host – get into it. Bring a fun hat/jacket/host prop (fake mic, wig, etc) and get into being the host (speak in the fun host fake voice, etc)**

1. Split your group into two teams (3 if you feel the groups would still be big).
2. Have one student from each team come up to the front for each round. Show a picture to the students and have them clap as a buzzer to answer. First person to clap gets to answer. They need to explain what the road/traffic sign means. Award 100 points to the first student to answer correctly. Continue to play with new volunteers until all the signs have been identified.
3. Give the winning team something fun – I’ll have it on-hand (send me ideas!)
4. When the game is finished, talk about that signs have many purposes, but one of their most important functions is to point people in the right direction.
5. Tell the young people that John the Baptist was like a road sign pointing to Jesus. Share that the Gospel this weekend is about John the Baptist, transition to read it!