

1st Sunday of Lent Cycle B
TEEN GROUPS

Materials: clay, pipe cleaners, poster board, pencils, markers, or other art mediums

OPENING PRAYER: Jesus, you are a gracious and loving God. In this season of conversion and reconciliation, give us strength and courage to journey with you these forty days. Help us to love you more by trying to be less selfish and more considerate of others. Amen.

READING SCRIPTURE: **Genesis** 9:8-15 **Psalms** 25:4-9 **1 Peter** 3:18-22 **Mark** 1:12-15

LET'S REFLECT! *God brings order and peace to our messy and chaotic world.*
The first reading reminds us that even in the days of Noah there was sin, chaos, and struggle. In the Gospel, Jesus also struggled with temptation in the desert, and the angels ministered to him. Today, we are both victims and contributors to sin, chaos, and brokenness in the world.

LET'S EXPLORE!

Form small groups. Using any art medium, create an image of sin, brokenness, or chaos. Create another image of hope, wholeness, or peace. Each small group explains the meaning of their images to the larger group.

LET'S TALK! *In small groups, discuss the following questions.*

1. What are some temptations, sins, or vices that create chaos and struggle in our homes, school, or work? Discuss the consequences that arise from each of these actions or situations.
2. What may be some reasons for choosing sinful and destructive actions? Discuss.
3. In what ways are you an agent of hope, wholeness, and peace in your home, school, or work? Discuss.
4. List virtues that would counteract the temptations, sins, and vices you identified in question one. Share and discuss.
5. One can be sorry for sins without having a change of heart. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

LET'S LIVE IT! *Select one or more of the following actions and be prepared to share next week.*

1. Take one of the virtues you listed in question four and try to practice it this week.

2. If your parish participates in *Operation Rice Bowl*, make a commitment to give up something you enjoy and contribute that money to the *Rice Bowl* each week.
3. Find a place of “wilderness” and spend quality time with God there.
4. Be an “angel” this week and help someone in need.
5. Write the *Memory Verse* on a card and place it where you can see it and pray it everyday.

Let's Pray!

Preparation: *Teens will sit in a large circle around a prayer table with a Bible, lit candle, crucifix, and the artwork from “Let's Explore.” Play soft music.*

Leader: Dear Lord, you are our hope and salvation in a world filled with brokenness, sin, and chaos.

One piece of artwork from “Let's Explore” that depicts images of hope, wholeness, or peace is passed from person to person. Holding the artwork, each teen will pray silently or aloud, thanking God for the hope God brings to the world.

Go to www.myspace.com/robbieseayband and play “Song of Hope” by Robbie Seay Band (Christian Rock), Houston, TX or listen/sing the traditional song of hope “Be Not Afraid,” found in most Catholic hymnals.

Conclude with the Our Father and share a sign of peace.