

2nd Sunday of Lent Cycle B TEEN GROUPS

Materials: one raw egg, one boiled egg, a cup of ground coffee, a cup of brewed coffee, fresh carrots, cooked carrots

OPENING PRAYER: Jesus, strengthen us and transform us into your likeness as we strive to be your faithful disciples. Amen.

READING SCRIPTURE: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 **Psalm** 116:10, 15-19
Romans 8:31b-34 **Mark** 9:2-10

LET'S REFLECT! *The choices we make change and transform our lives.*

Leader: There is a Native American legend about a mouse that heard a roaring sound in the distance and wanted to discover where it was coming from. She asked the other animals if they knew the source of the sound. Some said they didn't know, didn't care, told her to ignore it, laughed at her, or said that they had heard it but were too afraid to make the journey of discovery.

The little mouse had to know the source; therefore, she set out on a potentially dangerous journey into unknown territory. Along the way she was encouraged by some animals she met, ridiculed by others, and had to be wary of the dangerous creatures.

Eventually, the mouse came to an area where the roaring was very strong, but she could not see anything because of the tall grass. She met a frog that told her that in order to see the source she would have to jump very high. She took a leap of faith and jumped as high as she could, and the wind grabbed her and gently lifted her higher and higher. Suddenly, she could see the beautiful river, the source of the roaring sound. In the process she was transformed. Today the Native Americans call her the eagle.

LET'S EXPLORE!

Preparation: Display the raw egg, boiled egg, cup of ground coffee, cup of brewed coffee, fresh carrots, and cooked carrots. Everyone inspects the carrots, eggs, and the coffee, noting the differences.

Reader One: Each of these objects faced the same adversity...boiling water! Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak.

Reader Two: The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside hardened.

Reader Three: However, the ground coffee was unique. After it was in the boiling water, it changed as did the water.

Leader: Like the water, life experiences can affect and transform us in various ways, depending on our response to the situation.

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

1. Are you like the carrot, egg, or the ground coffee? Explain your choice.
2. Like the jumping mouse, how have you experienced adversity and/or help on your faith journey? Share.
3. The Transfiguration strengthened the disciples' faith in Jesus and helped them to face the difficult times ahead. What strengthens your faith in Jesus? Discuss. How does your faith in Jesus help you through difficulties? Share.
4. Name an experience that changed you in a positive way and transformed your life in some manner. Share.

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

1. Be a transforming force in someone's life. This week spend some time in service to a person in need.
2. Transform your corner of the world by volunteering at a recycling center, cleaning a vacant lot, or picking up litter along a highway.
3. Research a saint or a holy person whose life was radically transformed by his encounter with God, such as St. Augustine, Dorothy Day, or St. Francis of Assisi.
4. Pray the "Memory Verse" each day.

Let's Pray!

Gather around a prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, candle, and a bowl of water. Play soft music.

Reader 1: Thank you, Jesus, for the examples of Peter, James, and John who were transformed by your great love.

Reader 2: Lord, help us to persevere in our faith journey to your kingdom.

All: Amen.

Teens bless themselves from the bowl of water as a sign of God's transforming love. Conclude by praying the Glory Be.