

# A Quick Look at... TIPS FOR YOUTH GROUP

Diocesan Youth Minister Meet-Up Notes from April 28, 2020

## Tips from Youth Ministers about Youth Group:

- Familiarize yourself with the USCCB's guide for youth ministry.
- Prioritizing small group time and prayer/scripture time is key – they need encounter with Christ personally and the space to process with peers. And get the Bible in kids' hands!
- Small groups can be the same all year, the same for a 4-week series/semester, or different each week, and they could be co-ed or single sex. Though all options have good reasons to try them, most of the time it seems that single-sex small groups that are the same all year bear the most consistently positive fruit.
- If you want to do music but aren't musical, try a YouTube lyrics video!
- Remember to have fun and let the teens create friendships with each other—saints are made in holy friendships!
- Involving parents can be great, either inviting them to issue nights or inviting them to be on Core Team (and if a high schooler doesn't want them at high school things, invite the parent to help with middle school).
- Make sure to meet with your core team of adult volunteers as a group and individually to pray with them for your ministry throughout the year.
- Games are key to breaking down barriers – but if a kid isn't into it, consider giving them a unique job with it (being a judge or the DJ, etc.).
- Try to empower parents at home, you're on the same team with them!

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

### Group Games:

- [Games & Icebreakers, by The Source 4 YM](#)
- [Games, by Youth Group Collective](#)
- [Games, by Stuff You Can Use](#)
- [Crowd Control Games](#)

### Bible Studies:

- [Ascend, by Life Teen](#)
- [T3: The Teen Timeline](#)
- [Encounter: Middle School Bible Study](#)

### Small Groups:

- [Unleashed, by Life Teen](#)
- [YDisciple](#)

### Comprehensive Programs & Missions:

- [USCCB's Renewing the Vision](#)
- [Life Teen](#)
- [Parent Life, by Life Teen](#)
- [ProjectYM](#)
- [Theology of the Body: YOU](#)
- [Altation: The Mass](#)

### Remote Resources:

- [OFE Virtual & Remote Resources Page](#)

## - Unique Circumstances to Consider -

1. **When ministry becomes more remote, youth group needs to figure out how to meet virtually. How can we do good relational ministry when we are not able to meet physically?** *Remote ministry is a HUGE challenge! Consider using Zoom for group meetings (following safe environment guidelines). However, think outside of the box, as teens can be "zoomed out." Call teens who normally come to youth group and empower them to be disciples who lead their friends closer to Jesus. Contact parents of teens who are registered at your parish but you've never met and see what their teens' needs are. Look at the "OFE Virtual & Remote Resources" page for practical ideas!*
2. **We have a large Hispanic population at our parish. How do we connect our Anglo and Hispanic teens are youth group?** *Recognize that most if not all of your Hispanic teens speak English fluently and go to the same schools as your Anglo teens. When making small groups, mix all of your teens up—sharing cultures will strengthen your group and create new friendships. And be patient: many of Hispanic teens' parents only speak Spanish fluently and some might not have good access to internet, so work with teens and volunteers to find ways to connect with parents and bridge the gap between the two communities.*



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