

ALPHA YOUTH SERIES: GUIDANCE FOR PARISHES

Guiding Principles for the Implementation of AYS



Offices of RE | YM and Parish Evangelization

The Alpha Youth Series (AYS): It parallels the Alpha Film Series.

- AYS: 10 Sessions with an Alpha Day Away
 1. Life: Is this it?
 2. Jesus: Who is He?
 3. Cross: Why did Jesus die?
 4. Faith: How Can I Have Faith?
 5. Prayer: Why and How Do I Pray?
 6. Bible: Why and how do I read the Bible?
 - Day Away:
 - Spirit: Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?
 - Fill: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - New Life: How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
 7. Evil: How Can I Resist Evil?
 8. Telling Others: Why and how should I tell others?
 9. Healing: Does God heal today?
 10. Church: What about the Church?

- Each session has three parts: Refreshments or meal- Video – Discussion

AYS-Prep

- Ask anyone who is passionate about your ministry to pray for all of the catechists and FF students (by name) who will be involved in the AYS.
- Offering AYS sessions for 10 consecutive weeks is more effective than offering it on a bi-weekly or monthly schedule.

Determine what your FF students like for refreshments and provide them before the videos are presented.

- Preview each video prior to the class and consider using the questions that each AYS episode features during the episode for your discussion questions (have these discussion questions ready for each class).



AYS Sessions

- Prior to viewing the videos (this, as FF students are enjoying the refreshments), catechists can touch base with their FF students by asking them how their week went and what challenges and successes they experienced during the week.
- Help students to work through any skepticism, concerns or questions they may have regarding the faith and AYS material during the discussions. They need to wrestle with these deep issues of life and faith.
- Try to discover Scripture verses either featured in the AYS videos or ones that are related to the themes. Use them for discussion or a concluding prayer.
- Between video | session 6 (Why and how do I read the bible?) and video | session 10 (How do I resist evil?), consider an Alpha-Day-Away where the following videos can be displayed:
 - Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?
 - How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
- For AYS session, “What about the church?” the Diocese of Green Bay prefers that a Catholic video be used (i.e. Decision Point or Encounter) or that the catechist or a parishioner gives witness to why his or her parish is an important part of their discipleship journey. Keep in mind that the discipleship process is not complete without an encounter of Christ in the Eucharist.

- For the session- Does God heal today? Consider having someone give a testimony of being healed by the Lord. Also consider having FF students pray with or for each other for the expressed purpose of healing...and see what happens!

The million dollar question: What you are planning on doing after AYS? Considerations:

1. The reality is that AYS “alone” is not sufficient to bring about ongoing conversion for their FF students.
2. The transition from AYS to FF|RE must be well thought out by the parish.
3. Going from a dialogical (i.e. interactive) model of AYS to a classroom or lecture style could be abrasive and hence turn off our youth.
4. On the other hand, integrating the principles and style of AYS in a faith formation program (prayer, witness and dialogue) could enhance the RE experience and foster an encounter with Christ as experienced in AYS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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