## BATTLE LINES
### THE FALL OF HUMANITY
#### LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATECHISM</th>
<th>SCRIPTURE</th>
<th>KEY CONCEPTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># 385-390</td>
<td>Genesis 3:1-24</td>
<td>• Even though Jesus has won the ultimate victory over sin and death, we still face a battle where we must choose to follow Christ or disobey God through our sins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 396-409</td>
<td>John 3:16-17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 1454-1455</td>
<td>Romans 5:1-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 1854-1864</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 5:11-21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUCAT</td>
<td></td>
<td>• God did not abandon us to sin and death. God’s plan to save us was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 67-70</td>
<td></td>
<td>• The world is fallen because of original sin. We feel the effects of original sin when we experience conflict, sin, suffering, and evil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEY TERMS</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Even though Jesus has won the ultimate victory over sin and death, we still face a battle where we must choose to follow Christ or disobey God through our sins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concupiscence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protoevangelium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GOAL**
This Life Night presents the Fall of Humanity as the root of all sin and challenges teenagers to understand the narrative of the Fall as a common occurrence in their lives every time they sin.

**ABOUT THIS LIFE NIGHT**
This Life Night begins by locking teenagers out of their normal meeting space and moving them into their small groups. After a period of discussion, the groups meet back at a different meeting place that is cramped and uninteresting. The Proclaim presents the narrative of the Fall of Humanity and challenges teenagers to examine their sinful behaviors. Drawing on themes from the previous session, teenagers are challenged to find hope in Christ’s love and mercy and to receive that mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Break. The Send of the Life Night inspires teenagers to see the crucifix as a sign of ultimate victory and God’s love for us.

**PARENTAL NOTICE**
This week at Life Night, we reviewed the narrative of The Fall of Humanity, and challenged teenagers to see the account as an archetype for all sin. We began the Life Night locked out of our normal
meeting space. Teenagers went to small groups for a discussion about forgiveness and relationships. These themes were brought back up during the Proclaim, which challenged teenagers to evaluate their relationship with Christ. Your son or daughter had an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation toward the end of the Life Night. We closed with a challenge to see the cross and crucifix as a symbol of God’s love.

This week, follow up with your son or daughter and have a discussion about the Life Night. Use the following questions to get started:

• Where do you see the effects of original sin? How do we respond to these areas as Catholics?

• What can we do to help each other, as a family, stay grounded in Christ?

ENVIRONMENT
There are two environments for this Life Night: The first is your main meeting space. This room must be locked prior to the Life Night so that no teenagers may enter. Place one or two “security guards” out in front of the door. If possible, borrow actual security uniforms for these individuals. Inside, set up priests to hear confessions. The second environment will function as your main meeting space for most of the Life Night. This room should be bare and bland, a stark contrast to the victory celebration from the previous Life Night.

MEDIA SUGGESTIONS
Life Teen Video: "Examination of Conscience" (Life Teen Video Support 16)
Life Teen Video: "I Confess" (Life Teen Video Support 14)

GATHER

LOCKED OUT
(5 min)

The main gathering space is locked, and teens cannot get in. Station an official looking guard in front of the main meeting room. He or she informs teenagers as they arrive that they cannot enter and makes them wait outside. When the youth minister arrives, he or she instructs the teenagers to break into their small groups.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
(25 min)

Core Members facilitate a discussion with teenagers in their small group to begin the Life Night. The questions help prepare the minds and hearts of teenagers to receive the Proclaim, and begin to prepare the teenagers for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

• When was the last time you were locked out of something? What did you get locked out of? Describe the experience.

• Have you ever experienced tension in a friendship or even a break in friendship or relationship? How is it like being locked out? Did you reconcile the relationship? How?

• What makes a relationship work? What qualities need to be present? What causes disruptions or distortions in friendship? What can end it?

• Is forgiveness easy or difficult for you? Are you more ready to forgive someone or hold a grudge? Why? Is it easy for you to ask forgiveness when you are wrong? Why?

• Read Genesis 3:1-13, 22-24. What stands out to you from this passage from the Bible? Have you heard this story before? Was anything different hearing it now?

• Lead a brief time of processing with the scripture passage until the end of the small group. The goal of this final question is not to teach anything specific about the passage, but to get teenagers thinking about it prior to the Proclaim.
Small group leaders lead teenagers to the alternative meeting space to begin the Life Night after the time of discussion ends.

PROCLAIM

TEACHING: BATTLE LINES
(10 min)

This teaching challenges teenagers to read the narrative of The Fall of Humanity as a story that is repeated in their lives every time they choose sin. This teaching is important because it complements the previous Life Night, “The Alpha and Omega,” and provides the reason that we need a Savior in our lives. An outline for the talk can be found on pages 20 to 23.

BREAK

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(45 min)

The youth minister transitions from the teaching into a time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Invite several priests to be present to hear confessions during this time. If your group is unfamiliar with the sacrament, take several minutes to explain the movements of reconciliation and the purpose for the sacrament. Consider showing the Life Teen Videos, “I Confess,” to help prepare teenagers, and the “Examination of Conscience,” to help teenagers reflect on their sins. The examination of conscience can be playing in the background as confessions begin. If possible, have confessions in the main meeting room that was previously locked.

JOURNAL REFLECTION

As teenagers wait for the sacrament, or after they receive the sacrament, they reflect on the narrative of The Fall of Humanity more specifically. Pass out the handout on page 24 to the teenagers for reflection during reconciliation.

SEND

SCRIPTURE PROCLAMATION AND VENERATION
(15 min)

Gather all of the teenagers back into the main meeting space that was locked at the beginning of the Life Night. If your priests heard confessions in this room, be sure that everyone finishes before allowing teens to re-enter.

Read Romans 5:1-8 and close the Life Night with the following reflection:

A battle exists. We may find ourselves some days losing that battle to sin. We learned that our heart is a battleground between good and evil, sin and grace. There is mercy to help us when we stumble and fall. Christ loves us – this is why He gave His life for us. Even when we sin, God’s love for us remains. It is proven and shown to us whenever we look at a crucifix.

Place a large crucifix near the front of the room, or ask one of the priests to hold a smaller one. Invite the teenagers to come forward in pairs to say a prayer while they venerate or hold the crucifix. Tell them that this time of personal prayer focuses on God’s love, mercy, and healing.

Ask the priest to offer a blessing on the group and close by praying the Hail Mary.

ADAPTING THE LIFE NIGHT

• Use multiple rooms for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and have Eucharistic Exposition in the locked main meeting space. As teenagers receive the sacrament, instruct them to go to the previously locked main meeting space to pray. At the end of the Life Night, bring all of the teenagers to the same room for Benediction and a closing prayer.

• If you cannot offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Life Night, allow teenagers time to pray through an Examination of Conscience and journal. Close the Life Night with the veneration of the cross and a challenge to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the next week.
GOING DEEPER
• Challenge teenagers to perform an act of mercy this week. Give them the list of the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy and instruct them to choose an item from the list to do as a way of bringing God’s life and love into the world.

Notes
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
**KEY TERM DEFINITIONS**

- Protoevangelium – “First Gospel.” The promise spoken by God in Genesis 3:15 that He would send a Savior to redeem humanity.
- Concupiscence – The human inclination to sin.

**LOCKED OUT OF HEAVEN**

- Last session, we focused on the victory of Christ over sin and death. But why was this victory necessary? Why would God include those things in the world? The answer may surprise us, but to find it we need to go back to the beginning.

- In the Book of Genesis, the Holy Spirit reveals an important truth about humanity: We are made for relationship with God, but we broke that relationship. Though the imagery in the first 11 chapters of Genesis is not necessarily historical, it speaks eternal truths about who we are as people and our relationship with God.

- God created us in God’s image and likeness – we are made to love and be loved. Something happened in our relationship, however. We sinned. This fall from our relationship with God is called original sin.

- It is narrated through the story of Adam and Eve, and the relationship they shared with God. They lived in harmony with God, with each other, and with nature. They simply needed to be obedient to God and the one rule that God offered them.

- There is a conflict, however. Another being does not want people to have a perfect relationship with God. That being is represented by the serpent in the story. The serpent tempts Adam and Eve into disobeying God.
• The justification the serpent offers is that the man and woman should have the right to do as they please and decide what is right and wrong; God’s rule is restrictive – not liberating.

• How often have you heard that same phrase spoken today? The Church is outdated; we should be able to decide right and wrong. It is a lie as old as human history.

• Unfortunately, the man and woman fall for it (as we still do). They break their relationship with God. This original sin becomes the prototype for all sin – it is an action that destroyed their relationship with God.

• As a result, harmony was destroyed. The man and the woman are locked out of paradise. They experience conflict with each other and with God. Nature turns against them. Death enters the world.

• We all feel the effect of original sin. We see it in the disorder and chaos that exist in the world, in the disharmony in relationships, and in the struggle people have in their faith.

NOT ABANDONED
• God did not abandon humanity, however. God’s love extended beyond our disobedience.

• As God explained the consequences of the sin of Adam and Eve, He also promised a Savior for us. God does this in a passage called the protoevangelium, which means “first gospel,” or “the first good news.”

• Even though humanity was separated from God, there was a plan to bring them back. This plan was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

• Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, there is victory over sin and death. We can choose life in Christ, or we can go against God – just like Adam and Eve.

• A battle began that day – and that battle continues to this day. It is a conflict between good and evil – a conflict where our very hearts and salvation are at stake.

THE REALITY OF SIN
• Sin exists. There are actions we commit that hurt, weaken, or destroy our relationship with God. Because of original sin, we also wrestle with something called concupiscence, which is our tendency to sin.

• Concupiscence does not mean that we will sin or that we have to sin – we always have a choice. It does mean that our heart is conflicted, and we face temptation. If left on our own without God’s grace, we would often fall into sin.
• Even though Christ has won the victory over sin and death, we still are engaged in a battle because we have free will. The original decision of our first parents and the condition of humanity make our hearts a battleground.

• Sometimes we fall into sin, and that sin impacts our relationship with God. We can choose to ignore this, or we can do something about it.

• If we want to participate in Christ’s victory, we need to do something about it. The wages of sin is death, and we cannot ignore sin in our lives. It expels us from paradise. It locks us out of heaven.

• Thankfully, there is a way to restore our relationship with Christ. We do this through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

ONE CROSS, INFINITE MERCY
• When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment we deserve for our sins. Because God is infinitely perfect and infinitely loving, any sin offends God and separates us from God.

• This may not seem like something a loving God would do, but we must remember that we have free will. Love requires that we can choose the one we love. God loves us eternally and continually chooses us. God would no longer be loving if He forced us to love Him or did not provide us with a choice other than Him.

• God’s mercy is freely available to us, and we have the choice if we want to receive it. We receive this mercy, the same mercy given through the cross when we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

HEALED AND MADE WHOLE
• The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the seven gifts that Christ gave to the Church called the sacraments. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was given to restore our relationship with God when it was broken by our sin.

• We need to receive the sacrament as Catholics at least once each year, and anytime we find ourselves in a state of mortal sin. A priest, who sits in the place of Christ as he administers the sacrament, listens to our sins and then absolves us of them. He does this, not by his power, but in the name of Christ. No person has the power to forgive sins but Christ alone.

• This is incredible – we sit before Christ, and He says, “I forgive you. I wipe those sins clean. I make you new.” Our heart is a battlefield, and sometimes we become casualties to sin. Christ, the Divine Physician, heals us so we can keep fighting.

• Reconciliation ensures that we will not be locked out of heaven. It restores our relationship with God in all of the places where sin destroyed it.
• We have an opportunity to receive this incredible sacrament at this Life Night. We can approach Christ and receive His mercy to be made new, to receive grace, and to have the strength to continue the fight.
INSTRUCTIONS
Read through each section and take several minutes to reflect and write. Use this time to prayerfully consider the battle lines that exist in your life, and recognize that God’s mercy is always available to you whenever you choose sin. God’s love is unchanging. His mercy is waiting for you.

1. Think about the Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. What do you think was so tempting about the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? How does temptation present itself to you?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. The serpent tempted Eve and Adam when they were not in the presence of God; he waited for them to be weak and alone. Where do you need to invite Christ into your life so you can avoid temptation and sin? Are there people or places you need to avoid in order to also avoid temptation?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, but we have access to a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The only thing holding us back from God’s mercy is our pride. What is holding you back from fully accepting Christ’s love and forgiveness for your sins? What lies to do you accept from the enemy when seeking God’s mercy?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
CORE PLANNING TEAM:

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

DATE OF LIFE NIGHT:

____________________________________________

ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE NIGHT:

☐ Give copies of the Life Night to each of the members of the planning team. Each person should read the Scripture and Catechism references as well as review the planning guide before the brainstorming meeting.

☐ Get the planning team together for a brainstorming meeting (this should last no longer than 1 hour). The team prays and discusses where the teens are in their faith journey in relation to this topic. Then using this planning guide as a starting point, the team adapts the Life Night to meet the needs of the teens and the parish. Create a detailed outline with any changes and/or adjustments.

☐ Assign the person responsible for each part of the Life Night:

Environment ________________________________
Locked Out _________________________________
Small Group Discussion _______________________
Sacrament of Reconciliation __________________
Scripture Proclamation and Veneration __________

TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO LIFE NIGHT:

☐ Turn in a detailed outline of the Life Night to the youth minister. Allow the youth minister to give feedback and make any necessary changes.

☐ Create a list of needed supplies and materials. Assign a person to be responsible for collecting and/or purchasing the materials needed.

☐ Decide the people that will be doing the following things. Make sure they have a copy of the script and/or teaching outline. Inform them of any practices and/or deadlines.

Teaching 1 _________________________________
Teaching 2 _________________________________

WEEK OF THE LIFE NIGHT:

☐ Written outline of the teaching is given to the youth minister and practiced.

☐ Run a dress rehearsal of the Life Night. Youth minister gives feedback.

☐ Create environment and collect needed supplies.

☐ E-mail entire Core Team an overview of the night and small group questions.

DAY OF THE LIFE NIGHT:

☐ Set up the environment. Make sure the room is clean and presentable.

☐ Set up audio and video. Test the video clips to make sure both picture and sound work.

☐ Walk the entire Core Team through the Life Night. Make sure all transitions are ready and everyone knows their roles.

☐ Pray! Pray for the teens attending the Life Night. Pray for God’s will to be done through the night. Pray over those involved.
LIFE NIGHT EVALUATION

INSTRUCTIONS:
Use the following questions to discuss and evaluate your Life Night.

1. On a scale of 1-10, how well did this Life Night accomplish the goal we set? Explain.

2. What was the strongest aspect of this Life Night?

3. What kind of follow-up do we need to do after this Life Night?

4. What can we improve for future Life Nights? How can we accomplish this?