

THE MISSION

When I Grow Up

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

This week at Edge, we began a new series about the future called “The Floor Is Lava.” This first Edge Night aimed to capture the imaginations of the youth by asking them to visualize their adult lives. This session introduced the concepts of discernment and mentorship and the role of faith within these areas. The Edge Night began with small groups completing an obstacle course set up around a large volcano. This activity introduced the theme of the series and encouraged collaboration, planning, and working toward a shared goal. Then, your son or daughter’s core member presented the main teaching of the Edge Night within the small group while interspersing discussion questions, and your child had the opportunity to reflect upon their personal values so they can create values-oriented goals for the future. Each small group offered intentions in a final prayer. The Weekly Challenge is to choose a challenge from one of the Value Cards your child selected during the Edge Night.

MAIN IDEAS

- We can react to life or direct our life. A Christian directs their life by considering God’s will through a process called discernment, which can be enhanced through relationships with caring mentors.
- God has created us for a life of possibility and goodness and delights in our adventure! Jesus awaits our invitation to be the center of our life.
- Goals provide direction for life; faith and community provide support to keep us on track and redirect us if — or when — we are off course.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.” (Jeremiah 29:11-12)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

“God is the sovereign master of his plan. But to carry it out he also makes use of his creatures’ co-operation. This use is not a sign of weakness, but rather a token of almighty God’s greatness and goodness. For God grants his creatures not only their existence, but also the dignity of acting on their own, of being causes and principles for each other, and thus of co-operating in the accomplishment of his plan.” (CCC 306)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you feel about the future?
- Who do you look up to and look to for advice and guidance about your future?
- How does our family practice hearing and knowing the call of God?

DON'T FALL IN

Hope and Worry

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

Tonight at Edge, your son or daughter was encouraged to dream hopefully about the future while keeping their eyes on the ultimate goal of heaven. This Edge Night included conversations about worry and anxiety, as well as helpful suggestions for combating fear and trusting in God. The Edge Night began with an ice breaker activity to introduce the theme of the session, then core members presented the main teaching in small groups. The main teaching was followed by each small group creating a skit that starred the characters Hope and Worry as they would react to common middle school situations. To conclude the night, your son or daughter was led through a prayer meditation contrasting hopeful and fearful life perspectives. Your child's Weekly Challenge is to create a hopeful music playlist that provides a reminder to trust in God.

MAIN IDEAS

- We can never fully know our future, and it is a futile effort to try. So instead, we are called to trust in God with confidence and hope, not relying solely on our own strength but on the help of the Holy Spirit.
- When we give our hopes and dreams to Jesus, we balance our desires with trust in His care and providence, even when things do not go according to our plan.
- While we cannot pray away excessive worry — although prayer can help — we can pray for increased faith and hope and choose relationships that are abundant in support and encouragement.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:6-8)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

“Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. ‘Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.’ ‘The Holy Spirit . . . he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.’” (CCC 1817)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What do you worry about? What are you hopeful about?
- What helps you when you worry? What else can you try?
- How can our family continue to grow our trust in God? How can we be more hope-filled?

THE WAY

Guided By Christ

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter attempted to follow a map and set of clues around the church campus with his or her small group to introduce the Edge Night theme. Then, core members shared the main teaching within small groups in an interactive format that encouraged discussion. After that, your child was invited to write a letter to their future self detailing their hopes and logging the advice they gained through the Edge Night about staying close to Jesus (who is the way, the truth, and the life). The Edge Night concluded with an Ignatian meditation on the story of Peter walking on water. Your child's Weekly Challenge is to write the month and year of three years from today on the front of the envelope containing their letter. Your child should store their letter to their future self in a safe spot.

MAIN IDEAS

- There is no shortage of worldly opportunities promising “a look” into your future, but a Catholic rejects claims that attempt to replace God. Instead, we look to the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for us and wants the best for us, now and in the future. Jesus delights in the development of our natural interests and talents, which present a unique way of serving and glorifying Him.
- People who embrace an active prayer life are better equipped to handle the uncertainties of life.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

“Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.’” (John 14:5-6)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

“The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness: ‘Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.’ ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.’ On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: ‘Listen to him!’ Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law: ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example.” (CCC 459)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How can you use your gifts to serve others?
- What did you learn from this series? How will it change your prayer life?
- What are some things our family can do to more closely follow Jesus?