



SPARK

Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.

ST. JOHN PAUL II, WORLD YOUTH DAY 2002



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WELCOME

SPARK is a fourteen session Middle School Youth Ministry Resource that touches upon four areas of life that can be of significant challenge for this age range (11-14 year-olds). SPARK is designed to help shape the world view of our young people and equip them to live a life of discipleship.

FORMAT GOALS

- ❖ **fellowship is vibrant**
engaging activities & games
- ❖ **friendships are Christ-centered**
opportunities to love & serve one another
- ❖ **to experience a deeper conviction of faith**
equipped to charitably defend faith
- ❖ **to grow in their love for Jesus**
committed to prayer & reception of the sacraments

SUGGESTED FORMAT

SPARK is fixed into a ninety minute time frame and can be implemented weekly or every other week. The basic format for each session is:

- ❖ **Fellowship, Trivia & Snacks** (20 minutes)
- ❖ **Game or Activity** (20 minutes)
- ❖ **Topic Introduction** (10 minutes)
- ❖ **Small Group Discussion** (35 minutes)
- ❖ **Regroup** (5 minutes)

Leading with “free-time” may seem like a time waster, but can create the most memorable moments for young people as are introduced to different people, participate in a game or engage in a personal conversation. Trivia is a way to help ease participants into the topic being explored that gathering. Each participant should individually submit answers to questions. Once all are called to attention, a prize can be given to winner! A different adult leader can lead the suggested game and topic introduction every time. Small Groups are ideally grouped by gender and age. Coordinate with adult leaders to finish small groups at set time in order for gathering to end on time.

ADULT LEADERS

With a format that summits within the context of a small group discussion, recruiting adult leaders is crucial! Each adult leader will be inviting young people to contribute to an ongoing *conversation* about their world view and if they are allowing Christ to be their guiding light. Pray and activity seek adults who have a heart for young people and value relational ministry.

PARENT INTEGRATION

To launch SPARK, first hold a parent meeting to present the material, how it is taught and where they, as parents, can play a role. Parent integration through SPARK has many benefits:

- ❖ More adult presence to care for your young people
- ❖ Opens communication with parents and gives adult leaders opportunities to further support their effort to teach the faith to their children
- ❖ Helps parents live out their stake in youth community of your parish
- ❖ Teaches youth that ministry does not have to be disconnect from family

Here are some ways SPARK can provide parent integration:

- ❖ Snack sign up: Depending on how many youth attend, create a snack sign up for multiple families to contribute and offer for parents to stay and hand out the snacks. Enlist a parent to oversee sign up.
- ❖ Prayer Warriors: Call forth one parent to lead a time of prayer that is coinciding with the SPARK gathering. Prayer time can even be focused on the topic discussed during SPARK and conclude with fellowship to connect the parents.
- ❖ Family Dinner: Incorporate a monthly family dinner that includes parents and siblings, directly following the SPARK gathering. During meal time intentional conversation will be encouraged about the topics covered over the past month. After meal time a large group game, or activity, can be offered.

FRIENDSHIP

Happiness

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Trivia Introduction

Next time, please individually answer the trivia questions. The person who answers the most right receives “ prize ”.

❖ Game (*intended to last awhile for them to mingle*)

Favorite Corner

Supply: Slide show of choices, colored paper for each corner
Instructions: I’m going to ask you all a question which will have 4 different answers represented by a different color (ex. Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, 4th of July). Based upon what you like the best, go to that corner. When you arrive to the corner, find someone you DO NOT KNOW and introduce yourself. Then turn towards the front for another question. Share your answer with each other. Then a new question will be asked for you to choose your answer, proceeding to corner.

Questions:

1. Slide: Italian, Mexican, Chinese, Fast-food
Question: Which food could you eat every day?
> What is your favorite restaurant?
2. Slide: Beach, Mountain, River, Tree
Question: Where would you like to spend a week?
> What is your favorite place to visit?
3. Slide: Asia, Africa, South America, Australia
Question: Continent to take a vacation to?
> Have you been to another country before?
4. Slide: Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Football
Question: Which sport would you rather play?
> What’s your favorite position when playing that sport?
5. Slide: Summer, Winter, Fall, Spring
Question: What’s your favorite season?
> Favorite family tradition during that season?
6. Slide: Country, Rock, Rap, Classical
Question: Which type of music do you prefer to listen to?
> Who is your favorite artist or band?
7. Slide: Action, Comedy, Documentary, Romance
Question: Which genre of movie would you prefer to see?
> What was the last movie you saw?
8. Slide: Save, Give away, Give to family, Invest in hobby
Question: If you won \$10 million, what would you do?
> Have you ever done a service project or volunteered?
9. Slide: Writing, Drawing, Music, Dance
Question: How would you prefer to express yourself?
> Have you ever been to a museum or concert?
10. Slide: Flying, Strength, Speed, Invisibility
Question: What super power would you like to have?
> Who’s your favorite super-hero?

LAST QUESTION

11. Slide: Sad, a little happy, happy half of the time, happy
Question: How would you like to spend the rest of your life?
> Who is your favorite saint?

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- We all have different interests, but hopefully you saw there are many people here that like a lot of the same things you do.
- The last question during the game: we all crave happiness. Do you think your favorite saints desired to spend their life in happiness? YES, of course they are human like you and me.
- They all experienced sadness, sickness and loneliness. But what sets them apart is that they allowed the happiness found in their personal relationship with Jesus rule over whatever sadness, sickness or loneliness they experienced.
- This year, you may experience some challenges in school, at home, in your faith, on the field, with friends or siblings... when we come here we will talk about how to seek true happiness only found in Jesus. We will cover different topics like friendship, authority, popular culture and education.

❖ Small Group Vision

- Focus on getting to know each other leading a discussion about who everyone is, what their interests are and what they hope to get out of attending this gathering.

• Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

FRIENDSHIP

Acceptance & Peer Pressure

❖ Trivia: Friendship (appendix 1)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Game Musical Friends

Supply music, prize and choose a wall. Instructions: Pair-up with 1 person, then sit down. You guys are now friends! We are going to form 2 circles. The taller friend will be a part of the outside circle, and the shorter friend will be a part of the inside circle. When the music begins, the outside circle will walk to the right, and the inside circle will walk to the left. When the music stops, you must find your friend and make it to the wall! The last pair to the wall will be eliminated! Then, we will reform our circles and do it all over until we have a winning pair. The goal of this game is to NEVER be the last pair to the wall!

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- Last *Spark* we talked about friendship.
- Friendship is a good thing. God actually created us in His friendship, to be friends with Him. Jesus gives us a perfect example of friendship.
- Acceptance: We should accept everyone as a friend.
- *Outcast* - We are called to imitate Jesus in friending those who are alone or not loved by others.
- *Actions* - It is possible to still be friends with someone, to accept them, even though they choose to go against the rules. We will not participate in their rule breaking, but there is nothing stopping us from loving them.
- Peer Pressure: If you are having to fight your friends to stay away from their bad actions, this is peer-pressure.
- *Pressure* to participate in sin is never going to lead to happiness.
- *Pressure* to do good, serve others, love others and love God is always good.

❖ Small Groups

1. **Why should we accept everyone?**
2. **Have you ever felt like an outcast or alone without friends? Did someone befriend you?**
3. **Is it possible to be friends with someone who you know is participating in sinful acts?**
 - Yes! You must be careful to avoid partaking in their activities.
 - Jesus hangs out with sinners, but does not participate or accept their actions:

While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them [that], "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

- *We are not Jesus, but we can help bring Jesus to our friends.*

4. **How would you define peer pressure?**
5. **Is it possible to have good peer pressure in a friendship? If so, give some examples.**
 - Encouraging: do your homework, be on time, listen to parents...
 - Spiritually: leading them to God in hard situation, prayer, forgiveness...
 - Activities: friendly competition, wholesome music/movies/websites...
6. **How can you be more accepting of others and encourage your friends in their faith?**
 - Main Take Away
We are called to accept everyone, but we do not have to accept our friend's sinful ways! We must strive to be an authentic friend by encouraging them to grow closer to God and by not participating in what we know is sinful.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

FRIENDSHIP

Brothers & Sisters in Christ

❖ Trivia: Children of God (*appendix 2*)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Game Find Someone Who BINGO (*appendix 3*)

Supply: bingo sheets, pens Instructions: Read through each square and find “someone who...” Have them initial and move on until you have 5 in a row! First one wins! GO! Once there is a winner, move onto double bingo. Once next winner comes forward, move onto black out (filling every space).

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- So far we have we talked about how friendship is a huge part of life. Friendship is a good thing. God actually created us in His friendship, to be friends with Him.
- Jesus gives a perfect example of friendship.
- We should accept everyone and surround ourselves with friends who are encouraging us to do what is right.
- Today we are going to discuss the friendships we have with the other gender.
- Let’s start at the beginning... Since God made us in His image... *male* and *female* (we read in Genesis 5:1-2) we kind of need each other!
- Boys, imagine a world without girls... Or girls, imagine a world without boys.
- It could be pretty great for the first week. Then we would realize how we actually depend upon each other and the different gifts God has given us. The human race is complete with both genders.
- It is good to have friendships with the other gender, as long as they are within the appropriate setting – a group.
- When we develop these sorts of friendships, we can start to view another as a sibling, a brother or sister. That means that we love them like family.
- And the only way we can view our friendships like a brother-sister relationship is because of Jesus.
- Ever heard the title “brother or sister *in Christ*”? It is Jesus who shows us how to be loving, ultimately desiring the best for the other. And what is the ultimate desire we should have for every friend? Entrance into Heaven, sainthood.

- There are many great examples of saints who had these brother-sister friendships. (St. Francis & St. Claire, St. John Paul II & St. Mother Teresa)

❖ Small Groups

1. **How do your friendships with the other gender differ from your friendships with the same gender?**
 - Interests and relate-ability with each other
 - Intentions and reasons for hanging-out
2. **Is it possible for guys and girls to be friends? How?**
 - Yes! Under set boundaries.
3. **Describe the appropriate settings/boundaries in which guys and girls can be friends.**
 - Within groups. Emotional and physical temptations can arise when alone.
4. **How can we treat the boys/girls that we are friends with as a brother/sister?**
 - Encouraging: do your homework, be on time, listen to parents...
 - Activities: friendly competition, wholesome music/movies/websites...
 - Service: Dressing modestly, offering to help, acts of charity, listening to them...
5. **What does it mean to be a “brother/sister-in-Christ” to someone of the opposite gender?**
 - By leading them to God in all situations, prayer, forgiveness...
 - Main Take Away
It is possible to be friends with the other gender, but we have to make sure it is within the appropriate setting. And the only way we can view our friendships like a brother-sister relationship is because of Jesus. He is the one who shows us how to be loving and desire the best for the other: entrance into Heaven.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

AUTHORITY

God our Creator & Father

❖ Trivia: Creation (*appendix 4*)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Ships & Sailors

Instructions: Have everyone stand in the middle of the room facing the leader who is in the front of the room. Explain that everyone is a “sailor”, and they are on a ship and that you are the “Captain.” The role of the Captain is call out the actions and dismiss the players who do not do the actions quick enough or who break from character. Once the captain calls an action, each player has 3-4 seconds to start performing the action. The Captain will give a series of orders. Any sailor who cannot complete the order correctly in a timely manner is out and must sit down on the side. The orders and their explanations are as follows:

Round 1

1. **Go West:** Sailors must run to their right.
2. **Go East:** Sailors must run to their left.
3. **Hit the Deck:** Sailors must lie on their stomach.
4. **Captain's Coming:** Sailors stand at “attention” (in a salute), and they can’t move from this position until the caller says, “At Ease” If they laugh or break from the attention, they are dismissed. Captain can test by calling new order without saying “At Ease”.
5. **Man Overboard:** Sailors must find a partner. One person drops to one knee the other stands behind them, puts a hand on their shoulder. Both scan the ocean for the overboard man.

Round 2 (*add these orders in with the first 5*)

6. **Three Men Eating:** Sailors are to form groups of three and sit down in a circle. Then they must start eating from their imaginary bowls.
7. **Four Men Rowing:** Sailors are to form groups of four and sit in a row on the floor. They are to swing their arms as if they are rowing.
8. **Walk the Plank:** Five people stand in a single file row hands on the shoulders of person in front of them.

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer (*suggest praying the Our Father*)

❖ Topic Introduction

- What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear “authority”? Maybe Police officers or someone who is in power? Or someone who is abusing the authority they hold, out to make us miserable?
- The role of authority (as defined in the Catechism) is *to ensure as far as possible the common good of the society.* (CCC# 1898)
- God is our Creator. He has created you and me and all the world around us.
- This means that God is our ultimate authority. Does He seek our misery, stealing away our

freedom through the Ten Commandments and rules we follow as Catholics? No, it is the opposite.

- God is the only One that can bring about the most good in our lives. We need to *acknowledge* and *follow* His authority.
- God helps us understand His perfect authority as our Father. This was why Jesus referred to God as His Father.

❖ Small Groups

1. What would the world be like without authority or laws?

- Chaotic. Disregard for the common good. No accountability.

2. Why do we sometimes connect authority with “no freedom”?

- Our culture portrays rules as stealing our freedoms, when rules and authority indeed help us live freely. Especially from sin.

3. How does God have authority over us?

- He is our Creator. He understands what we need and what we do not need in order to be good and obtain happiness.

4. Jesus describes our relationship with God as a Father-child relationship. *Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him?* (Matthew 7: 9-11). **If we understand God as our Father, how should this transform our understanding of His authority over us?**

- He desires the greatest good for us. He exercises his authority by way of love and mercy, most clearly seen in Jesus Christ.
- Main Take Away God is our ultimate authority. God does not seek to make us miserable through His authority over us. God is the only One that can bring about the most good of our lives. We need to *acknowledge* and *follow* His authority in order to find happiness and freedom. God helps us understand His perfect authority as *our loving Father.*

• Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

AUTHORITY

Catholic Church

❖ Trivia: The Pope (*appendix 5*)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Indian Chief

Instructions: Have the group sit or stand in a circle. One person (i.e., the guesser) leaves the room. After the person has left the group, one person must be picked to be the “Indian Chief”. The Indian Chief decides on some kind of motion and the whole group copies the movement. Everything the Chief does, everyone else is to follow. The guesser comes back into the group and tries to figure out which person is leading the motions (i.e., the Indian Chief). The guesser gets three tries to guess who the Indian Chief is. The person who was the Indian Chief now leaves the room to be the guesser and a new Indian Chief is chosen.

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- Last *Spark* we talked about how the role of authority (as defined in the Catechism) is *to ensure as far as possible the common good of the society.* (CCC# 1898)
- God is the only One that can bring about the most good of our lives. We need to *acknowledge* and *follow* His authority.
- The primary way to acknowledge and follow God’s authority is to follow the authority Jesus established through our Church.
- Who do we look to as the authority of the parish? Pastor. The region of parishes? Bishop. The country of churches? Conference of Bishops. The world of churches? The Pope. This is the hierarchy of the church.
- As Christ’s representative, the Pope is the final authority of the Catholic Church on earth. This is how Jesus set up our church. The Pope’s authority finds its origin in **Matthew 16: 15-19** (read).
- God’s authority is found in the Catholic Church through the Pope and the hierarchy of Bishops. We are all children of the Family of God and members of the Body of Christ, so we must listen to our Pope and follow the authority of the Church.
- There has been an unbroken line of succession from St. Peter to Pope Francis. And so today, Pope Francis is Christ’s representative on earth.

❖ Small Groups

1. Read the passage from Matthew (16: 15-19). What are some keys things that happen here?

- Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Son of God! Peter is given a new name (from Simon to Peter) Peter is given the “keys to the kingdom”. Jesus explains that Peter is able to act as He does, having the authority to forgive sins.

2. Our Pope is the current successor of St. Peter! Why is it important for us to listen to him?

- We are a part of the flock that he shepherds. We must look to him for how to live the Christian life in our times, and the Pope will always teach us how to follow Jesus more closely.

3. What if there was no Pope, no one with the final authority. What would happen?

- Division. We must respect the hierarchy that our Lord established. We can see the many divisions that have happened through all the protestant denominations after rejecting the leadership of the Pope.

4. Lots of rules we follow as Catholics. Is it the intention of the Church to steal our freedom?

- The church longs to help us make it to heaven. In order to reach heaven we have to be free from the enslavement of sin. The rules and guidelines the church teaches are to help us reach heaven.

5. What are some ways you can follow the authority of the Catholic Church daily?

- Faithfulness to Jesus through the sacraments and the scriptures.
- By loving and forgiving others.
- Seeing those around you as a brother or sister in Christ and serving them.
- Main Take Away God’s authority is found in the Catholic Church through the Pope and the hierarchy of Bishops. The Pope has been Christ’s representative on earth since St. Peter. We are all children of the Family of God and members of the Body of Christ, so we must listen to our Pope and follow the authority of the Church.

- Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

AUTHORITY

Parents

❖ Trivia: Famous Parents (appendix 6)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Cracker Whistle & Egg Roll 500

Cracker Whistle

Supplies: crackers & water bottles Instructions: split into teams of equal amounts. The first player on each team will run to center table, eat two crackers and then attempt to whistle. Once a player has whistled they run back to their team and tag the next player. The next player carries out same challenge and tags next player. The first team wins. Make everyone aware of water bottles if they need a drink.

Egg Roll 500

Supplies: 1 hardboiled egg per team Instructions: Divide into teams (recommend staying in same teams from first game). Set up obstacle course with a start and finish. Each person is to go through obstacle course pushing their team's egg with their foot. First team to successfully navigate the egg through the obstacle course wins!

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- Refresh... Role of authority (as defined in the Catechism) is *to ensure as far as possible the common good of the society.* (CCC# 1898)
- God is the only One that can bring about the most good of our lives. We need to *acknowledge* and *follow* His authority.
- The primary way to acknowledge and follow God's authority is to follow the authority Jesus established through our Church.
- Today we are going to discuss the God-given authority our parents have in our lives.
- In the season of Advent, we reflect on the journey of parents: St. Joseph and our Blessed Mother Mary. Their sacrifices include:
 - Dangerous journey to Bethlehem
 - No place to stay
 - Becoming refugees, journeying to Egypt
- You may or may not be aware of the sacrifices your parents have made for you. But the sacrifices these holy parents, made for Jesus, are similar to the sacrifices your parents have made for you and your siblings.
- What do we know about Jesus' childhood? *He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was **obedient to them**; and his mother kept*

all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man. (Luke 2:51-52)

- So who is the perfect example for us on how to respect the authority of our parents? Jesus!
- The Fourth Commandment is (Exodus 20:12) *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.*
- Jesus lived the 4th Commandment perfectly.

❖ Small Groups

1. **Why does God grant that parents have authority over their children?**
2. *He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them...* (Luke 2:51). **As God, was it fair for Jesus to obey His earthly parents?**
 - No! But it is humility and the purest of love that motivated Jesus, the Son of God, to obey the authority of His parents.
3. **Why do you think Jesus was obedient to the authority of Mary and Joseph?**
 - Out of Love! Also... as God, the writer of the 10 Commandments, He could not contradict them. Even if it meant obeying His own creation.
4. **Listen again to the Fourth Commandment from Exodus 20:12... Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you. How would you describe this commandment to a non-Christian who has never heard of the 10 Commandments?**
5. **What are some ideas you have for ways that you can obey the authority of your parents?**
 - Listen and follow rules of the family/house.
 - Respectful of material goods, clothes, money and food (not being wasteful).
 - Faithful to given responsibilities and chores.
 - Love and forgive family members.
 - Help friends become more obedient to their parents authority and pray for your parents.
 - Main Take Away The authority our parents have in our lives is given to them by God. We can look to Jesus as the perfect example of how to respect the authority of our parents.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

AUTHORITY

Teachers & Coaches

❖ Trivia: Teachers & Coaches (appendix 7)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Lime Relay & Orange Eating Race

Lime Rely

Supplies: 1 lemon & 1 pen per team, cones Instructions: Divide into teams of 6 (depending on total. Teams are to roll lemon using pen around cone and back to starting line. Each person must complete this task and the first team to complete wins.

Orange Eating Race

Supply: 1 orange per team, hand sanitizer Instructions: Hand sanitizer. Stay in same teams from first game and sit in a circle. The object is for each person to help peel the orange and eat it. The first person from each team is to peel one piece of orange skin then hand it to the next person in line to peel one more piece of skin. Once the orange is peeled, teams are to take one section of the orange to eat and pass the rest to next person. First team finished peeling and eating their orange wins.

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- For the last 3 meetings we have focused on *Authority*.
- Just to refresh... Role of authority is *to ensure as far as possible the common good of the society*. (CCC# 1898). God is the only One that can bring about the most good of our lives! We need to *acknowledge* and *follow* His authority. The primary way to acknowledge and follow God's authority is to follow the authority Jesus established through our Church. The authority our parents have in our lives is given to them by God. We can look to Jesus as the perfect example of how to respect the authority of our parents.
- Today we are discussing the God-given authority our teachers and coaches, as well as other adult of influence we know, have in our lives.
- The ultimate goal of every teacher and coach is to help you grow. To become a better student or athlete.
- Sometimes we may think "This teacher/coach doesn't know anything so I'm going to teach myself!" This is not the attitude we're supposed to have as Christians. Listen to what Jesus says in Luke's gospel (Luke 6:40)... *No disciple (student) is superior to the teacher; but when*

fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.

- We have all had our different opinions about teachers/coaches and how they teach/coach. None are perfect, but we have a Teacher Who IS perfect... Jesus.
- Jesus gives His students (disciples) these instructions as their Teacher, *So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.* (John 13:12-15)

❖ Small Groups

1. **Why does God grant that teacher and coaches have authority over their students and teams?**
2. *No disciple (student) is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher* (Luke 6:40). **Sometimes we believe that we are superior to our teachers & coaches (that we know more or do not need their guidance). Why is this a struggle?**
 - The work/practice is hard. We think they dislike us. We want things our way (pride).
3. **What some ways that we can obey the authority of our teachers & coaches?**
 - Listen and follow the rules they set.
 - Be respectful when they are teaching the class/ coaching the team.
 - Help fellow students / teammate to become better.
 - Pray for your teachers / coaches.
4. **What made Jesus a great teacher?**
 - He always taught the Truth, lived what He taught, served and above all loved.
5. **Listen again to the passage from the Last Supper in John 13:12-15 (see above). What is Jesus teaching His disciples here? How can we follow the example Jesus gives us in our own lives?**
 - Main Take Away The authority our teachers & coaches have is given by God. We can look to Jesus as our perfect Teacher and also respect the authority of the teachers & coaches as a way of being His disciples.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

POP CULTURE

Consumerism

❖ Trivia: Consumerism (appendix 8)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ \$1,000 Bill Exchange

Supplies: 25 coins, fake money Instructions: Give each person 10 of the bills. They are to try to win as many as possible from their peers by challenging them one on one doing one of three things: *Thumb wrestling, Rock, paper, scissors* or *Coin Toss*.

Rules: You must accept any challenge. Sudden death, NO two out of three. On Coin Toss, the person who is NOT flipping the coin calls "heads" or "tails".

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- Pop Culture is something that surrounds us and can be found in: the news, fashion, music, video games, movies, sports, food, language, etc.
- What do you guys think, are these good things?
- As Christians, we are called to test/examine pop culture and many times reject it. Why? Because the message that Jesus preached goes against popular culture. This is His message: *If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.* (Mark 8:34)
- Jesus knew His message would not be accepted by popular culture. When He sent His disciples out to preach, He said: *Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves... But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans.* (Matthew 10:16-18)
- What we believe is not always going to be accepted by everyone we know.
- It is easy for us to become discouraged by this. But this is why we are here today, to be reminded that we are not alone. And that Jesus is BIGGER than popular culture, He is God.
- One day Jesus was walking with His disciples and He turned to them and asked, *'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?'* They replied, *'Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'* He said to them, *'But who do you say that I am?'* Matthew 16:13-15

- You see, Jesus does not care for what the popular opinion is. He is only concerned about your belief in Him. Like Jesus, we should not allow popular opinion to rule our lives.
- One way that pop-culture tries to rule over our lives through *consumerism*.
- We are going to learn more about the dangers of *consumerism* and how we can combat it in our lives as Christians.

❖ Small Groups

1. **Since we are focusing on popular culture, let us start by sharing our favorite movie.**
2. **Describe for us what consumerism is?**
 - It is becoming absorbed by things that we buy, watch, play, listen to, wear, read or even eat. To be controlled, or enslaved, by what you consume.
3. **As Catholics, why is consumerism a threat to our faith in Jesus?**
 - Products can become our "god", and by focusing on consumption we start to believe that they can fulfill us.
 - We leave no room for God in our life when we are only focused on the consumption of products, music, news, clothes, etc.
4. **St. Paul encourages us in his letter to the Romans (12:2), Do not conform (or follow)... this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. Is it possible to live in our consumerism culture while still following God? How?**
 - It is possible. We cannot accept everything popular culture presents to us. Like St. Paul says, we must *discern what is good*. And we can discern through daily prayer, reading the scriptures, receiving the sacraments and staying active in a Catholic community (like *this gathering today*).
5. **Would anyone like to share a time when their faith was challenged by popular opinion or by someone you know?**
 - Main Take Away What we believe as Catholics is not always going to be accepted by everyone we know, especially by pop-culture. We must combat against the temptation of consumerism to keep Jesus at the center of our lives.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

POP CULTURE

Fame

❖ Trivia: Famous People (appendix 9)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Guess Again

Supplies: scrap paper and pens Instructions: Everyone choose to be a character, actor, cartoon character, or otherwise famous person. Make sure it is someone the general public will know. Do not tell anyone, write it down on scrap piece of paper, show name to adult for approval and to be recorded. Then fold it and put it in your pocket and go to assigned team (3 different teams). After all character names are submitted, **warn everyone to pay attention!** The entire list of famous people is read aloud slowly – twice. Ask each team to form a line. The first person of each team steps forward. Team 1 is first to act in Character while team 2 & 3 representatives are the Guessers! If Guesser is right, Character joins that team. If both Guessers are wrong, character stay on team by going to back of their team's line. Second in line stands up and now team 2 acts in Character. So the Guesser from team 2 then acts in Character, then representatives from teams 1 & 3 are Guesser. Whoever has the most Characters at the end wins!

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- Last time we discussed what popular culture is and how we are called to test/examine pop culture and most of the time reject it. Why? Because the message that Jesus preached goes against popular culture.
- Pop Culture's message: Happiness = consume, money, fame, repeat.
- Jesus' message: *If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.* (Mark 8:34)
- What we believe is not always going to make us popular. And it is easy for us to become discouraged by this! Because who does not want to be known by others? It is a part of being human.
- Look around, today you are surrounded by others who are trying to live their faith too. You are not alone.
- Jesus was NEVER concerned with what the popular opinion was. He is only concerned about your belief in Him.
- One way that pop-culture tries to rule over our lives is through the idea of becoming a *celebrity*.
- We are going to learn more about the temptations that come from *fame*.

❖ Small Groups

1. **Let us start by sharing which character we were and why we choose this famous person.**
2. **Can anyone describe for us what a celebrity is and if being a celebrity is good/bad?**
 - Defined: Well-known or famous.
 - Reaching celebrity status can come from something good or from something evil.
 - Example: Hitler vs. Mother Teresa
3. **Listen to this story from the Gospel of John chapter 6. This is after Jesus performed the multiplication of fish and loaves for thousands of people, When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, 'This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.' Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone. Is Jesus seeking to become a celebrity?**
 - No, *He desires to do God's will.* His motivation is never popularity and to be known by all. His motivation is love, for others to know God the Father.
4. **St. John teaches us in his first letter (2:17), *Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever. How can fame entice us away from doing the will of God?***
 - Seeking praise/approval from men.
 - Fame puffs-up our pride and selfishness.
 - Reliance upon self / popular opinion for all things.
5. **How can you personally protect yourself, or withdraw, from the temptations of "becoming famous?"**
 - Prayer, reading Holy Scriptures and frequenting the sacraments.
 - Fasting.
 - Practicing humility (allow others to go before you, offer seat, help another with school work, saying sorry first, etc.)
 - Main Take Away The desire we have to be known is a good thing. It becomes disordered when we are focused on the praises of others. We can fight against the temptations of fame through prayer, fasting and acts of humility.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

POP CULTURE

Power & Influence

❖ Trivia: Power (appendix 10)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Consequences

Supplies: Music Instructions: Split into groups of 8-10 people. Sit in a circle and have one person volunteer their shoe. Pass shoe until you hear music stop (like hot potato). Person with the shoe must stand to receive a consequence. After carrying out consequence, sit down and pass the shoe. EVERYTIME the shoe is passed to you, you have to carry out that consequence! If music stops when you have the shoe again, you will now have to carry out TWO consequences EVERYTIME the shoe is passed to you and so on...

Consequences:

1. Sing and dance: "Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes."
2. Bow/curtsey to someone in your group.
3. Run around your group and back to your spot.
4. Find someone in another group and take a big whiff of their hair saying to them, "Smells GREAT!"
5. Joyfully sing, "Let it go, let it go!"
6. (pass)
7. Find a crucifix and proclaim, "Jesus I love you!"
8. Shake someone's hand in your group and tell them, "Fr. _____ for President!"

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- Over the last two gatherings we have been exploring the topic of *Pop Culture*.
- Pop Culture is something that surrounds us and can be found in: the news, fashion, music, video games, movies, sports, food, language, etc.
- Pop Culture's message: Happiness = consume, money, fame, and you will be powerful.
- The Jew's were waiting for the Messiah to come in great power to over-rule the Roman Empire.
- This is not what happened.... How did the Messiah come?
- The God of all creation, Who has power over everything, the Maker of YOU... *He choose to come as a human, as powerless baby.*
- Our world has it wrong when it comes to understanding what power is.
- For a moment, imagine if you had total control and power over everything like God does.
- Show BRUCE ALMIGHTY clip when song "I've got the Power" plays as he walks the streets abusing his new found powers.

- Jesus, Who is all powerful, has this message for us: *If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.* (Mark 8:34)
- It is a message of humility, not strength and power by the world's definition.
- Power is another trap our pop-culture sets in order to draw us away from Jesus.

❖ Small Groups

1. **Let us start by each sharing our name and their preferred super power.**
2. **God has given us power because we are made in His image and likeness! What are some everyday ways that you use your power?**
 - reading / learning (intellectual power)
 - creating (writing, crafts, art, music...)
 - work (cleaning, dishes, lawn, meals...)
 - possessions (making use of taking care of and organizing belongings)
 - pets (caring for, supervising)
 - siblings (supervising, responsibilities)
3. **Are there times when you misuse the power God has given you over the things/people in your life? If yes, how?**
4. **Disciples of Jesus, and brothers, St. John and St. James struggled with understanding the power God gives us, *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' He replied, 'What do you wish [me] to do for you?' They answered him, 'Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.'* (Mark 10:35-36) What is wrong with their question?**
 - They are demanding. They want power for themselves, to be recognized, praised and influential like God.
5. **So how does our ALL-POWERFUL God use his power?**
 - Humility. Jesus instructs His disciples in the Gospel of Matthew 23:11, *The greatest among you must be your servant.*
 - Main Take Away Pop-culture wants us to become powerful for selfish reasons, while Jesus offers us power through self-denial. We have the choice to misuse the power God gives us, or fight against popular culture by remaining humble.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

EDUCATION

Privilege of Learning

❖ **Trivia: Education** (*appendix 11*)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ **Welcome**

❖ **Head & Shoulders**

Supplies: plastic cups (1 per pair) Instructions: Find a partner. Give out 1 cup per pair. Place cup on the ground (top down) and each partner must stand with knees slightly bent and an equal distance away from cup. As leader calls out body parts, like "Simon Says", you must touch that body part using both hands. Once leader says "CUP" the first one to grab cup advances! Winner: find another winner place 1 cup down and new round begins. ("Losers" can also continue playing in another area of the room.)

Leader Commands: Say each body part at random and faster and faster until saying "CUP". Include body parts from previous rounds as you progress.

Round 1: HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES, HIPS, EARS, HANDS

Round 2: EYES, ELBOWS, ANKLES, NOSE, WRIST

Round 3: SHINS, BACK, NECK, MOUTH, ARMPITS

Round 4: HAIR, EYE BROWS, STOMACH, CHIN

❖ **Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)**

❖ **Opening Prayer**

❖ **Topic Introduction**

- What does the word "privileged" mean?
Fortunate or honored.
- There is nothing we have done to receive it, it is a gift.
- Reminds me of God's love for us,
But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
- Were Adam and Eve privileged? They had everything, and yet they lost focus of God and His love.
- Over the next 4 Spark gatherings our focus will be on *Education*.
- This is something that we can easily take for granted, we can lose focus on how fortunate we are to be educated.
- Often times we do not view going to school and learning as a privilege.
- Show Catholic Relief Services Story about Yuvi. Search online for "Catholic Relief Services Guatemala: Education for a Better Future" Show from beginning until **2:35**, then start again at **3:33** until end.
- Yuvi's situation is not as common in our country, and we should not feel bad about the privileges we have.

- In hearing her story we should be *motivated, grateful* and *encouraged* to be a better student.
- (On whiteboard: GRANTED transformed into GRATEFUL erase "N" representing what we think we NEED, add "F" aith and then flip "D" on its' side and pull "L" away.)
- A huge part of being Christian and growing in your love for Jesus is to become more and more GRATEFUL for what you have.

❖ **Small Groups**

1. **Let us start by sharing our name and our favorite subject in school.**
2. **After watching the video and hearing about Yuvi's situation, what are some things you realize you are fortunate to have in your life?**
 - Learning, simple house work, sports, possessions...
3. **Name some reasons why we take for granted the privileges we have in our lives?**
4. **As Christians, followers of Jesus, why is it so important for us to be GRATEFUL for what we have?**
5. **What ways can you become a more GRATEFUL student?**
 - Come to class prepared and ready to learn.
 - Less complaining and more perseverance to finish assignments/reading given to you.
 - Making studying a priority.
 - Start homework with a prayer. Direct all your learning towards glorifying God.
 - Encourage fellow students to pay attention.
 - Main Take Away Avoid taking school for granted. It is a privileged to be educated! Approach learning with gratefulness knowing that is God who grants us many privileges in our lives.
 - Announcements

❖ **Closing Prayer & Regroup**

EDUCATION

Intellect & Reason

❖ Trivia: Intelligence Quiz (appendix 12)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Your New Friend

Instructions: Find a partner. Everyone form two lines facing your partner. Introduce yourself and then turn back to back. You will be presented with a series of statements about your new friend and (keeping your hand close to your chest) will put a thumbs up for “Yes” and a thumbs down for “No” in response to the statement. The leader will then ask you to face your friend to see if you guessed correctly! After a few questions, partners will shift down one and we will begin again.

Leader Questions: Your new friend...

- loves bacon.
- has been to Australia.
- watches cartoons.
- really enjoys the outdoors.
- is the oldest in their family.
- likes summer better than winter.
- has no pets.
- has broken a bone.
- is not originally from this state.
- has been to a professional sporting event.
- has been to the top of the Washington monument.
- carries a rosary.

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- Last Spark we talked about the *Privilege of being Educated* and how it is important to avoid taking school for granted. We should approach learning with gratefulness knowing that is God who grants us this privilege in our lives.
- We attend school and are, hopefully, becoming more educated in order to grow in our intelligent and reason.
- What separates us from the rest of creation? Our ability to intelligently reason, choose, the awareness of our own freewill. Intelligence: understanding, self-awareness, communication, learning, memory, creativity and problem solving. Reason: think, understand, and form judgments by a process of logic.
- Our God gives us this unique ability, but our intelligence level DOES NOT define our worth.
- The world can often define someone by their intellectual ability.

- There were saints who were smart by the world’s standard, like *St. Augustine* and *St. Katherine of Sienna*, as well as ones who were dumb by the world’s standards, like *St. Andre* and *St. Bernadette*. Did you know that one of the most brilliant minds in human history was thought to be dumb? His name is *St. Thomas Aquinas* and his nickname was “the dumb ox”.
- Listen to what St. Paul says about knowledge and our ability to learn. Read 1 Cor 13:2.
- Our ability to grow in intellect and reason must lead us to LOVE more. When we start focusing on ourselves and how smart we can become, we lose sight of Jesus and of those around us. We are unable to love.

❖ Small Groups

1. **Let us start by sharing our name and if we had to do a huge 10,000 piece picture puzzle, what would you want the picture to be?**
2. **Big deal... we have intellect and can reason. Why does our ability to intellectually reason set us apart from the rest of God’s creation?!**
 - Self-awareness, awareness of God and ultimate ability to love.
3. **Our world tells us that if we are smart and intelligent we will experience what?**
 - Success, wealth, comfort, security, happiness...
4. **As Christians, followers of Jesus, what is our understanding of intelligence and reason?**
 - It is a gift from the Lord to be used to make Him happy (glorify Him) and it can never define our worth as human beings.
5. **What ways can we use our intellect and reason to grow in our relationship with God?**
 - Spending time in prayer with the all-knowing God
 - Spending time each week reading the Sacred Scriptures
 - To not be afraid to ask questions and learn
 - To put others before ourselves and serve them
 - To love our parents, siblings, friends, and teammates more like Jesus loves us
 - Main Take Away Our unique ability to intelligently reason is a gift from the Lord to be used to love and glorify Him. It should never define our worth as human beings.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

EDUCATION

Disciples of Jesus

❖ Trivia: Mentors (*appendix 13*)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ Welcome

❖ Blob Tag

Supplies: Two foam noodles (optional) Instructions: Select one or two people to begin the blob (they are “it”). Everyone else will scatter about the playing area. On the signal, the blob will attempt to tag the other players while linking arms. A player getting tagged must join by linking arms with the blob. The blob must stay joined and attempt to tag others. As more are tagged, they must add onto the outside members of the blob. The object of the game is to be the last player captured by the blob. Some rules to follow: Only the end players of the blob can tag others. The blob must remain connected to tag others. You may give a noodle to each free hand of the blob to aid in tagging (not required).

❖ Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)

❖ Opening Prayer

❖ Topic Introduction

- The last few Sparks we have been focusing on Education (*Privileged & Intelligence*).
- We attend school (a privilege and we should be grateful) and are becoming more educated in order to grow in our intelligence and reason. You all are familiar with what it means to be a student (learning, listening, studying, testing...).
- Jesus was a teacher and He had 12 really close students called...? Disciples.
- What did it really mean to be a disciple when Jesus was a Rabbi?
- Show Rob Bell video about discipleship. Search online for “DUST - Rob Bell”. Video is 15:34 minutes long, but only show about 7 minutes of it. First show 3:00 to 7:10 and then show 8:17 to 11:06.
- Were the disciples educated, did they go through Religious Education? No, not like we understand Religious Education.
- Their schooling was literally following Jesus. They came to know Him and love Him. They listened to Him, ate with Him, slept on the same floor as Him, took long journeys with Him, witnessed Him heal, teach and (most importantly) resurrect from the dead.

❖ Small Groups

1. Let us start by each sharing if we had the opportunity to be present at one of Jesus’ miracles, which one would it be?
2. What first comes to your mind when you hear the word “disciple?”
3. After watching that video, what are some similarities shared between students and disciples?
 - Learning, studying and testing.
4. What makes a disciple different than a student?
 - Always with rabbi (teacher) following them, imitating all the rabbi does and says.
5. With this understanding of being a disciple, how can you become a better disciple of Jesus (at home, school, sports, etc.)?
 - Spending time in prayer listening and talking with Jesus.
 - Spending time each week reading the Sacred Scriptures and attending Mass.
 - To not be afraid to ask questions and learn.
 - Imitate Jesus by putting others before ourselves to serve them.
 - Imitate Jesus by loving our parents, siblings, friends, and teammates.
 - Main Take Away Jesus calls each of us to be His disciple. To follow Him we must get to know Him. We can come to know and follow Him better through taking time to pray, reading the scriptures and encountering Him in the sacraments.
 - Announcements

❖ Closing Prayer & Regroup

EDUCATION

Understanding Vocation

❖ **Trivia: Vocations** (appendix 14)

After 20 minutes of fellowship...

❖ **Welcome**

❖ **Do you love your neighbor? (Train Wreck)**

Supplies: chairs Instructions: Form a circle with chairs. Leader stands in the center of the circle and introduces themselves to the group saying, "Hey, my name is ____." The group responds, "HEY ____, DO YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR?" The leader responds saying, "Yes, especially those who ____ (saying something about themselves)." If what was said applied to anyone in the circle they are to leave their seat to find a new one. The last person left will not have seat and will be the new person in the middle. Repeat. Point of this game is for people to share something about themselves (their likes, their experiences, what they like to do, where they have been, what they listen to, etc.) in order for the group to realize the things they share in common. Discourage focus on dislikes, which can lead to division.

❖ **Trivia: Announce answers and winner(s)**

❖ **Opening Prayer**

❖ **Topic Introduction**

- The last few Sparks we have been focusing on Education (*Privileged, Intelligence & Discipleship*).
- True or false... you have learned a lot this year? At school, at home, Religious Education, sports...
- What is the point? Vocation.
- What does the word vocation mean?
- Vocation means a call. God's invitation, His call to each person to love and serve Him and His Church in a particular state or way of life. Each person's vocation flows from the grace of Baptism.
- Can you name some vocations?
 - Married life
 - Holy Orders: Priesthood & Diaconate
 - Religious Life: Priests, Religious Sisters (Nuns) & Religious Brothers (monks, friars).
 - Consecrated Life
- Your current state of life is a little "v" vocation: student and learning how to be a disciple.
- Your eventual state in life is your Big "V"
Vocation: it is too early for you to know, although St. Therese (the Little Flower) joined the convent at age 15!
- What are you supposed to do now? PREPARE.

- Think about the life of a flower. A lot of preparation goes into its blooming in the spring.
- What are the things it needs in order to grow and bloom? Rich soil = *Community faithful friends*. Water = *Sacraments, to help grow*. Sun = *Prayer, relationship with the SON!*

❖ **Small Groups**

1. **Let us start by sharing what we want to be when we grow up.**
2. **What first comes to your mind when you hear the word "vocation?"**
3. **Do you have any questions about any of the vocations?**

Show video. GIRLS' small groups show Religious Sisters video (recommended: "Year of Consecrated Life: Daughters of Saint Paul" by Arlington Catholic Herald). GUYS' small groups show Seminarian video. (recommended: "A day in the life of a diocesan seminarian" by Arlington Catholic Herald).

4. **What did you learn after watching that video?**
5. **Is it easy to listen to God and answer His call in your life?**
 - No. But we can prepare to answer His call every day by praying, receiving the sacraments and through our community of faithful friends.
 - Main Take Away Jesus has a vocational call for your life. We can prepare to answer His call upon our lives NOW by praying, receiving the sacraments and through our community of faithful friends.
 - Announcements

❖ **Closing Prayer & Regroup**

APPENDIX 1

FRIENDSHIP

Acceptance & Peer Pressure

❖ **Trivia: Friendship**

1. “There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.” This is a quote from the Dominican Saint who wrote the Summa.
2. What are the names of the two friends from the Lion King whose philosophy is “hakuna matata”?
3. What costs nothing but is worth everything, weighs nothing, but can last a lifetime, that one person cannot own, but two or more can share?
4. Jesus had many friends. Of the twelve disciples He call forth to follow Him, can you name the three He invite to join Him atop Mount Tabor for His Transfiguration and to pray with Him at the Garden of Gethsemane?
5. Can you name the friends who came from the same town in Italy, were the founding members of a religious community, and are now saints?

❖ **Answers**

1. St. Thomas Aquinas
2. Tamon & Pumba
3. Friendship
4. Peter, James & John
5. St. Francis and St. Claire of Assisi

APPENDIX 2

FRIENDSHIP

Brothers & Sisters in Christ

❖ **Trivia: Children of God**

1. How many times can one person be baptized?
2. What Names have to be spoken in order for a baptism to happen?
3. Who was Jesus baptized by?
4. What is the matter of baptism?
5. The word *Baptism* comes from the Greek word, *bapto*, or *baptizo*, which means?
6. Who established the sacrament of Baptism?
John 3:5 - *Jesus answered, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.’*
7. Who is allowed to be baptized?

❖ **Answers**

1. Once
2. Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
3. St. John the Baptist
4. Water
5. To wash
6. Jesus Christ
7. Anyone and everyone!

APPENDIX 3 Find Someone Who BINGO

Find someone who has a birthday in February and have them initial here.	Find someone who has been to Colorado before and leapfrog over him/her. Then have them initial here.	Get five adult leaders to sign the back of this sheet and have the last adult initial here.	Have someone stack two chairs then have them initial here.	Find someone who homeschools and have them initial here.
Find someone who is preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and have them initial here.	With two other people, face the front of the room, put your hand over your heart, and say the "Pledge of Allegiance" in unison. Initial each other's bingo card here.	Challenge someone to a game of rock, paper scissors then have them initial here.	Find someone to listen to you say "toy boat" ten times quickly. Then have them initial here.	Have someone tell you about the best Christmas gift they ever received then have them initial here.
Get two other people to link arms with you and do the cheer "lean to the left, lean to the right, stand up, sit down, fight, fight, fight!" Initial each other's bingo card here.	Give someone your biggest smile face and have them initial here.	FREE SPACE	Have someone tell you about the best restaurant they have ever been to and have them initial here.	Find someone who has a birthday this month and sing "Happy Birthday" to them. Have them initial here.
Find someone who has stayed up over 24 straight hours. Have the person initial here.	Give someone a high-five and have them initial here.	Get a hair over 5 inches long from someone else's head. Let them pull it out. Have the person initial here.	Find someone who has a birthday in July and have them initial here.	Have someone tell you their favorite flavor of ice cream and have them initial here.
Find someone who is left-handed and have them initial here.	Find someone who is wearing glasses and have them initial here.	Find someone who has lived in a foreign country and leapfrog over him/her. Have them initial here.	Trade writing utensils with someone and have them initial here.	Find someone who has blue eyes and have them initial here.

APPENDIX 4

SPARK

AUTHORITY

God our Creator & Father

❖ Trivia: Creation

1. Name the only mammal that can fly.
2. 85% of plant life is found where?
3. This underwater mammal creates the loudest sound of any living creature.
4. In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, we hear how Jesus was looking for something to eat and when he found no fruit growing from this type of tree, he cursed it.
5. At how many days old is an unborn baby when its heart starts beating?
6. This lizard can move their eyes in two different directions at the same time.
7. We read in the book of Genesis that God made man on which day?

❖ Answers

1. Bats
2. Underwater
3. Blue Whale
4. Fig tree
5. 18 Days
6. Chameleon
7. The sixth day

AUTHORITY

Catholic Church

❖ Trivia: Pope

1. Who was the first Pope?
2. The Pope is also considered the Bishop of what diocese?
3. The Pope only speaks infallibly when making a decision or clarifying a doctrine on what two matters?
4. It is believed that the Pope wears white because when Pope Pius V was elected Pope in 1566, he desired to continue wearing his white habit as a member of this religious order?
5. How many Popes have chosen the name Benedict?
6. With 104 trips outside Italy, this Pope has by far been the most traveled Pope ever!
7. Who is our Pope today?

❖ Answers

1. St. Peter
2. Rome
3. Faith and Morals
4. The Dominicans, or the Order of Preachers
5. 16
6. St. John Paul II
7. Pope Francis

APPENDIX 5

APPENDIX 6

AUTHORITY

Parents❖ **Trivia: Who are their Parents? Name both Mother and Father**

1. Cain and Abel
2. Isaac
3. Luke Skywalker
4. St. John the Baptist
5. Prince George
6. Mary of Nazareth
7. Violet, Dash and Jack-Jack
8. Jesus of Nazareth

❖ **Answers**

1. Adam & Eve
2. Abraham & Sarah
3. Anakin Skywalker (Darth Vader) & Padmé Amidala
4. Zechariah & St. Elizabeth
5. Prince William & Princess Catherine
6. St. Ann & St. Joachim
7. Mr. Incredible & Mrs. Incredible (Elastigirl)
8. Joseph & Mary

Teachers & Coaches❖ **Trivia: Famous Teachers & Coaches**

1. He was a jedi master to Anakin Skywalker.
2. Michael Jordan is arguably the best basketball player to ever play the game. But it was not until he was joined with his NBA coach and mentor, that he flourished.
3. Pope Benedict XVI considers the Pope who was elected before him his mentor.
4. He is the most important advisor to Frodo, the hobbit from the shire in Lord of Rings, in his fight against evil.
5. St. Ignatius, a first century bishop of Antioch, was a disciple of which apostle.
6. Hiro, a 14-year-old genius, is challenged by his brother to gain admission to the San Fransokyo Institute of Technology. What is Hiro's brother's name?
7. A simple fisherman dropped his nets to follow a first century Rabbi, and was given the keys to the Kingdom. What is the Rabbi's name?

❖ **Answers**

1. Obi-Wan Ben Kenobi
2. Phil Jackson
3. St. John Paul II
4. Gandalf
5. St. John
6. Tadashi (Big Hero 6)
7. Jesus

APPENDIX 7**AUTHORITY****APPENDIX 8****POP CULTURE**

Consumerism

❖ **Trivia: Popular Products in 2014**

1. Apples' newest tech gadget, complete with 5.5 inch screen and a powerful 8-mega pixel camera.
2. Nerf decided to create a new line of guns, arrows and crossbows specifically for girls. What is the name of this new line?
3. Following the Xbox 360, this is the third gaming system of the Xbox family.
4. This movie, about the kingdom of Arendelle, sold 11,034,558 DVDs becoming the most purchased DVD of 2014.
5. In this top 10 videogame of 2014, players collect materials from the world around them in order to 'craft' items and build whatever their mind can imagine.
6. For the past 32 years, this Ford truck has been the best-selling vehicle.

❖ **Answers**

1. iPhone 6
2. NERF Rebelle
3. Xbox One
4. Frozen
5. Mind Craft
6. F-150

Fame

❖ **Trivia: Famous People**

1. A Scottish singer who came to international attention when she appeared as a contestant on Britain's Got Talent in 2009, singing "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Misérables.
2. Defeated a giant and saved a nation.
3. The only recorded Catholic priest to received stigmata.
4. English rock band, who are regarded as the most influential act of the rock era.
5. In 1979, this catholic sister was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace."
6. An orphan who inherited a lot of wealth. He is the only superhero without any super powers.
7. This disciple was present at Christ's crucifixion and the first person to see Him rise from the dead!

❖ **Answers**

1. Susan Boyle
2. David
3. St. Padre Pio
4. The Beatles
5. St. Mother Teresa
6. Batman
7. St. Mary Magdalene

APPENDIX 9

POP CULTURE

APPENDIX 10

POP CULTURE

Power & Influence

❖ **Trivia: Power**

1. A container consisting of one or more cells, in which chemical energy is converted into electricity and used as a source of power.
2. A team of youths recruited and trained by a mentor to morph. They are able to utilize special powers and pilot immense assault machines, called Zords, to overcome different enemies.
3. The Lord used His power over all creation by parting this famous body of water, in order for the Israelites to Passover and escape from Egypt.
4. With a powerful bite of 200 pounds per square inch, this Australian mammal has the strongest bite for a creature its size.
5. When he is Dr. Banner, he is one of Earth's most brilliant scientist. When he gets mad enough, he transforms into a creature that poses crushing power, super human speed and leaping ability.
6. The influential spiritual leader of one-sixth of the world's population -- 1.2 billion souls. The power he holds had been given him through apostolic succession.
7. One of the most powerful miracles Jesus performed was bringing a friend back to life four days after his burial. Jesus is informed of His friend's death by His friend's two sisters who ask Him for help. What is Jesus' friend's name?

❖ **Answers**

1. Battery
2. Power Rangers
3. The Red Sea
4. Tasmanian Devil
5. Hulk
6. The Pope
7. Lazarus

❖ **Trivia: Education**

1. The study of the nature of God and religious belief.
2. Name 1 of 2 Catholic University/College located in the Arlington Diocese (or name both for two points).
3. This Italian Catholic developed a method of educating young children that stresses development of a child's own initiative and natural abilities, especially through practical play.
4. This special college prepares men to become priests.
5. This American saint dedicated her life to serving underprivileged American's through mission schools for Native and African Americans. In 1915 she also founded Xavier University in New Orleans.
6. This is the study and treatment of disease, injury, or deformity by physical methods such as massage, heat treatment, and exercise rather than by drugs or surgery.
7. This Catholic priest dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth of Turin, Italy.

❖ **Answers**

1. Theology
2. Christendom / Marymount
3. Maria Montessori
4. Seminary
5. St. Katherine Drexel
6. Physical Therapy
7. St. John Bosco

APPENDIX 11**EDUCATION***Privilege of Learning***APPENDIX 12****EDUCATION***Intellect & Reason*

❖ **Trivia: Intelligence Quiz**

1. How many birthdays does the average man have?
2. Some months have 31 days; how many have 28?
3. If there are 3 apples and you take away 2, how many do you have?
4. How many animals of each gender did Moses take on the ark?
5. How many two cent stamps are there in a dozen?
6. You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?
7. Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

❖ **Answers**

1. Just one.
2. 12 (all of them).
3. Two, you took them remember?
4. Moses did not have an ark, Noah did!
5. There are twelve 2 cent stamps in a dozen!
6. Second, you took his place so you are in second!
7. Her name is Mary! Read the question again.

❖ **Trivia: Famous Mentors & Students**

1. He mentored the jedi who turned to the dark side. (Name both persons for 2 points.)
2. He is arguably the best basketball player to ever play the game! But it was not until he was joined with his NBA coach and mentor, that he flourished. (Name both persons for 2 points.)
3. This former Pope, who is still alive, considers the Pope who was elected before him his mentor. (Name both persons for 2 points.)
4. He is the most important advisor to a hobbit in his fight against evil. (Name both persons for 2 points.)
5. This 1 century bishop of Antioch was a disciple of one of the 12 apostle. (Name both persons for 2 points.)
6. This 14-year-old genius's big brother inspires him to put his brain to the test in a quest to gain admission to the San Fransokyo Institute of Technology. (Name both persons for 2 points.)
7. This simple fisherman dropped his nets to follow a first century rabbi, and was given the keys to the Kingdom. (Name both persons for 2 points.)

❖ **Answers**

1. Anakin Skywalker: Mentored by Obi-Wan Ben Kenobi
2. Michael Jordan: Mentored by coach Phil Jackson
3. Pope Benedict XVI Emeritus: Mentored by St. John Paul II
4. Frodo: Mentored by Gandalf
5. St. Ignatius of Antioch: Discipled by St. John
6. Hiro: Mentored by his brother Tadashi
7. St Peter: Discipled by Jesus Christ

APPENDIX 13

EDUCATION

Disciples of Jesus

APPENDIX 14

EDUCATION

Understanding Vocation

❖ Trivia: Vocation

1. Women who live their lives as brides of Christ, called by Jesus to pray and serve the needs of the Church in a more hidden way. They live in cloistered communities and do not leave their convents for any outside apostolates.
2. Someone who is baptized and confirmed can receive one of these special *sacraments of missions* in the Church. (Name both for 2 points.)
3. Formal commitments made to God to follow Jesus in His poverty, chastity and obedience as members of religious communities.
4. A degree of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, after bishop and priest. He assists and preaches at Mass, baptizes and presides at weddings and funerals.
5. A permanent state of life recognized by the Church, entered freely in response to the call of Christ to the perfection of love and characterized by the making of public vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
6. Women belonging to a religious communities. They serve the Church in whatever ways their superiors decide is best given their talents and inclinations.
7. People within the Church who are not ordained as bishop, priests or deacons are known as?

❖ Answers

1. Nun
2. Priesthood & Marriage
3. Vows
4. Permanent Deacon
5. Consecrated Life
6. Religious Sister
7. The Faithful Laity