
National Youth Project 2010-2012

12 For 12: Developing Full Communities

Bible Study: Providing Knowledge

THEME VERSE

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you." Luke 17:20-21

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GAME: How much knowledge have you got?

Ask the group the questions below. Have them write out their answers on some sort of practical writing/drawing apparatus. Share answers with the group. Make it a contest to see who had the most knowledge. Feel free to add or substitute your own set of trivia questions. Answers provided at the bottom.

1. Name as many sovereign nations as you can that begin with the letter D.
2. Name as many prophets as you can who have books named after them in our Old Testament.
3. You have a twenty-millilitre measuring cup and you need to scoop roughly 470 millilitres of flour into a large bowl. How many times do you fill the scoop?
4. How do you say 'fire' en francais?

Follow-Up

- Why would it be important to know the answers to any of these questions?
- How does knowledge improve our well being?

Readings

And [the Lord] said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." Isaiah 6:9-10

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'" Mark 4:10-12

Jesus here is quoting scripture; note the similarities of the two passages. People called him 'Rabbi,' and 'Teacher,' and he often taught using parables. These passages do not seem positive or uplifting; what can we learn from them?



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Discussion

- What do you know? Do you know enough to get by in your own context? Do you know how to survive in another context, such as in a different culture, or in the wilderness? Do you know matters of faith and who God is to the same extent as you know matters of the world?
- Who do we suppose we are in the reading from Mark 4? Are we the disciples, to whom has been given secret knowledge, or are we the outsiders, for whom our senses have been dulled and closed off?
- What is the difference between the knowledge spoken about in these passages from the Bible and everyday knowledge about surviving and prevailing in our own communities in a worldly sense?
- Why do we value learning? Consider our own contexts and unfamiliar contexts like in a fishing village on a remote beach, or a gritty urban setting on another continent? What learning is more valuable in each of these contexts? Is there any learning that is valuable in every context?
- Who is your community? Make a list.
- How does your knowledge affect or benefit your community? How does the learning of the others in your community (such as teachers, city workers, accountants, musicians, parents, friends) affect or benefit your community? How does your community affect or benefit the larger community of humanity?

GAME: Collective knowledge

Split the group into smaller groups, perhaps of three or four. Have each group write their answers to the following questions on some sort of practical writing/drawing apparatus. The goal is to see how much knowledge each group has; however, in this game, allow groups to trade answers with each other if they don't know the answers themselves.

1. What is the key signature of B major?
2. What is the capital city of Switzerland?
3. Is vinegar acidic or basic?
4. Which were written earlier: Paul's letters, as included in our Bibles, or the four Gospels?
5. In Luther's Small Catechism, with which 6 words does he begin his explanations of the Commandments 2 through 10?
6. How many miles is 19 kilometres? Round up to the nearest whole mile.
7. What does the number 7 signify in many Biblical texts (other than its obvious basic numerical significance)?

Follow-Up

- Discuss how knowledge is shared. How does the sharing of knowledge affect or benefit a community?
- Read the theme verse from Luke once more. How would such a statement, coming from Jesus Christ, be received (then or now)? How does this knowledge affect or benefit us? What do you think Jesus thought about the value of knowledge?



How Can We Help?

What will you do with the knowledge you have?

Supporting the National Youth Project, 12 For 12, is a way to improve education in places around the world.

Lutheran Contributions can be sent to:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
302-393 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B3H6
Cheques payable to the ELCIC

Anglican contributions can be sent to:
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
The Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street, Toronto ON M4Y 3G2
Cheques payable to PWRDF

Please indicate that your contributions are a part of "National Youth Project: 12 for 12" so that we can keep track of our goal!

Prayer

Feel free to use this prayer, or augment, supplement, or replace it as you see fit!

God of wisdom, you have made us and love us, and for this we give you thanks and praise. Teach us to support one another; strengthen us to share our knowledge, both of worldly matters and of the love you have shown us through Jesus. We ask for guidance in our interactions within the whole community of humanity. These things, and all other prayers we have in our hearts, we lift up to you, through Jesus Christ.

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A tradition in the ELCIC, the National Youth Project is a way for youth groups to engage a social justice issue, and to support a common project that addresses this issue. The project runs for two years, from national youth gathering to national youth gathering. 12 for 12 is the first joint Lutheran-Anglican project.

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Game answers on following page...



ANSWERS FOR GAME 1

1. Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic
2. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Malachi. (Joshua, Ruth, the books of Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther may be accepted, since they are important names of singular figures who coincide with books of the Old Testament; the Lutheran Study Bible, NRSV, classifies these books under 'Historical' and not 'Prophets')
3. 23.5, or 23 or 24 if you paid a lot of attention to the word 'roughly' in the question.
4. Feu (masculine)

ANSWERS FOR GAME 2

1. B major has five sharps.
2. Bern
3. Vinegar is acidic.
4. Paul's letters were written before the gospels.
5. "We should fear and love God..."
6. 12 miles.
7. Seven is the number representing completeness (other possible appropriate words: perfection, wholeness)