

CALL US FORTH

Good Shepherd,

*You who does not rest until each
of your sheep is counted,
you have willed us to do in
your name what you have done
for us.*

*But we are reluctant, we are afraid,
and we long to hear your voice.
And so we pray ...*

Call us forth.

*Lord, who stands amid the violence
and deprivation of war ...*

Call us forth.

*Lord, who stands amid the rising
waters of floods ...*

Call us forth.

*Lord, who walks upon the parched
land of droughts ...*

Call us forth.

*Lord, who stands with the victims
of every disaster, through every dark
night, beside them till morning ...*

Call us forth.

*Lord, who walks the long walk
with those refugees who
call their crude shelter
in a strange land "home" ...*

Call us forth.

*Lord, who remains with the sick,
reaches out to comfort the dying ...*

Call us forth.

*Lord, brother to the persecuted,
the enslaved, the marginalized ...*

Call us forth.

*As you called Peter forth from
the safety of the boat, and bid him
to forsake his fear and hold fast
to his faith ...*

*As you called Paul forth from
the allure of worldly power,
and bid him to forsake his sin
and hold fast to your truth ...*

Call us forth to bless.

Call us forth to heal.

*Call us forth to speak your Word,
to feed your sheep, into encounter,
into solidarity, into love.*

*Call us forth from our comfort, from
our indulgence, from our doubt,
from our fearful blindness, our
willful deafness.*

*For the sake of our sisters and
brothers, for the sake of our world,
for the sake of your Kingdom,
we pray ...*

Call us forth.

Amen

BIASED THINKING

OBJECTIVE

Youth will explore the Catholic social teaching principle Option for the Poor by reflecting on their biases about people living in poverty.

MATERIALS

- Copies of the “Cross Out Six Letters” handout for each small group
- 1 pencil for each small group
- 1 piece of blank paper for each small group

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1:

- Distribute one copy of the handout to each small group.
- Instruct them to cross out six letters to discover a common word.
- Tell them they will have 5 minutes to do this.
- At the end of 5 minutes, ask them to stop. It is unlikely anyone will have solved the puzzle, unless they have done this before.
- Point out the instructions on the handout: cross out six letters. Then tell them to cross out the letters S, I, X, L, E, T, T, E, R, S. When they do this, they will arrive at the word “banana.”
- Point out that they were unable to solve the puzzle because they were operating under biased thinking—what they thought they heard or what they thought you meant.

Step 2:

- Give each small group a blank piece of paper.
- Ask the groups to title their paper, “Things We Can Do to Help the Poor.” Ask them to brainstorm a list of helpful actions.
- After 5 minutes, ask them to stop and count the number of items on their list. Some may even congratulate themselves that their list is long.
- Ask them to turn over the piece of paper and number it with the same number of items as the front. If they came up with 10 items for the original list, they should number 1 to 10 on the back.
- Now tell them to title this side of the paper, “Things the Poor Can Do to Help Others.” Tell them they must brainstorm as many items as they had for the first list.
- Go around the room and help them with possible answers. Suggest things like teaching others resilience, perseverance, trust, flexibility or simplicity.

PROCESSING

- Have the small groups report on their second list.
- Ask them what they learned from this activity.

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