

**TOB SESSION ONE : IDENTITY LEADS TO A SENSE OF MISSION AND PURPOSE - WHO ARE YOU?**

**COVERING:** Created for Love, Naked Without Shame, Love Defined

**SAINT:** St. Bernard of Clairvaux

**CHRIST APPEALS TO:** The Beginning, it was not so. Matthew 19

**TERMS:** Original Solitude, Original Unity, Original Nakedness, Spousal Meaning of the Body, Original Innocence, the Father's FATHERHOOD

**GOING TO NEED:** Michelangelo's Creation of Adam poster; Bibles; TOB worksheet for notes, PERFECT Ed Sheeran and Jesus and You by Matthew West

**ICEBREAKER:** Building a Life: Lego pack with all pieces for one object. Directions, partial directions, etc.

**TALK 1: WHO YOU ARE IS DEPENDENT ON WHOSE YOU ARE:** Answering the questions "Why do we yearn for LOVE that is incorruptible, unconditional, unrepeatable, and eternal?" and "Why is it that when we experience real LOVE it feels as if we've known that person all our lives - as if there is an ECHO of something experienced before?" This is the explanation of Jesus's appeal to the BEGINNING and Man's ORIGINAL experiences within the communion with his God and with Eve before the Fall. **Analogies: the Heavenly Pitcher**

**TALK 2: DEFINING LOVE IN LIGHT OF THE BEGINNING:** Love is: Covenant and Grace , the Body is a sign of a greater relationship, the Law of Life (the Commandments, the Beatitudes, the teaching of the Church) is an INHERITANCE. We were created VERY good, so we should see that we are good, behave "good", and be treated as the "good." Teens will define REAL LOVE. Then see it presented for them in 1 Corinthians. Why do we know this is LOVE? Because it is an echo. The Law of Life protected their GOODNESS, and God was a loving Father who protected them. They obeyed out of LOVE. **Analogies: The Runner and the Spatula**

**LET THEM:**

The teens have OVER-heard Genesis. To them, this is a pretty fairy tale about non-existent people. LET THEM act out the roles of Adam, Eve, and God. Also let one teen explain a moment when they felt "unseeable" - how have we left someone *else* feeling "unseeable"

The teens are told a lot about how they should love. LET THEM in the Discussion Questions speak to their own desires for love and intimate friendship. Guide the conversation, but let them be the ones to reach the answers.

**SAINT QUOTE:**

"But if you find that your benevolence to your neighbor reduces your own support which you need, what can you do then?... "Ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to [you]" (James 1:5). Again, as the psalmist says, "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing" (Psalm 145:16). There is no doubt that God will provide for our needs; indeed, He gives most people more than they need. So His promise is true: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33; Luke 12:31). God freely promises to give all things necessary those who do not withhold themselves from the needs of others and who thus love their neighbors. To seek first the Kingdom of God means really to prevent sin from ruling in our lives (Romans 6:12) and to prefer the yoke of modesty and sobriety with God's help..." St Bernard of Clairvaux

**SAINT PJPII QUOTE:**

"Love is never something ready made, something merely 'given' to man and woman, it is always at the same time a 'task' which they are set. Love should be seen as something which in a sense never 'is' but is always only 'becoming', and what it becomes depends up on the contribution of both persons and the depth of their commitment." LOVE and RESPONSIBILITY "Limitation of one's freedom might seem to be something negative and unpleasant, but love makes it a positive, joyful and creative thing. Freedom exists for the sake of love." LOVE and RESPONSIBILITY

**GIVE THEM HOMEWORK:**

**Find one song that is a love song that could also be a song in praise/worship.**

**GIVE THEM SCRIPTURE:**

Genesis 1:24-31; JOHN 1:1-14; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13