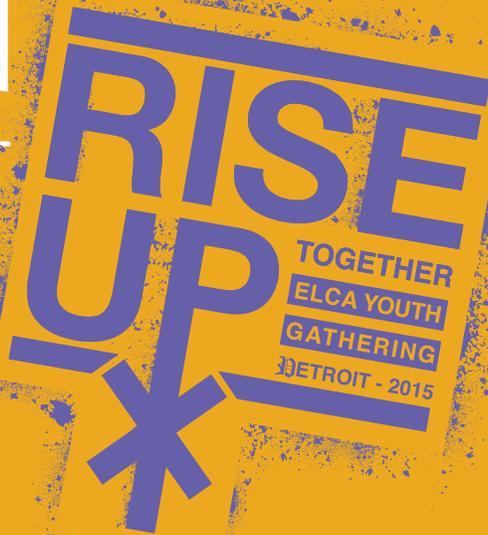


ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Additional  
Materials

— 2015 —



# STAYING READY

**Rising Up Together  
as Resurrection Revolutionaries**

#RiseUpELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of their experiences in Detroit as either experiences of death or experiences of resurrection, or both.
2. Participants will develop a greater appreciation for one another's understandings of their own experiences in Detroit.
3. Participants will create a plan for living together as Resurrection Revolutionaries.

### BACKGROUND MATERIAL

This lesson builds on the sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Luke Powery on Wednesday night at the ELCA Youth Gathering. He passionately called us to rise up as Resurrection Revolutionaries together (clap!). This is a beautiful way of understanding the end of Mark's Gospel, which is really the beginning of our discipleship journey. It is, therefore, also a wonderful way to imagine our lives lived at home after the excitement of the Youth Gathering. But knowing how to do this is not easy.

One of the most important things we can help our young people learn is the practice of Christian discernment – learning how to live in light of the gospel as Resurrection Revolutionaries. This lesson is intended to guide your group through a process that will allow you to reflect on your time together in Detroit, interpret some of your experiences there, and then wonder together how God might be calling you to live now in your communities.



## PREPARATION

Please follow these steps in preparing to lead this lesson.

1. Read over the lesson thoroughly. Consider the length of the lesson and the time you have available with your group. You might want to add to or subtract from the lesson provided.
2. Make the lesson work for your group. Every group is different, and it is impossible to write one lesson that will work for every group. Please feel free to rework this lesson to fit your needs.
3. Take time to review Powery's sermon. You can find it [here on YouTube](#). What surprised you as you listened? What inspires you? What questions do you still have?
4. Have paper and crayons prepared for the reflection time.
5. Have a chalkboard, whiteboard or a large easel pad and marker available for the processing times.
6. Go over the lesson one more time imagining how the lesson might go and how you might transition between each activity in the lesson.
7. Pray that God's spirit empowers you and moves through you and your group as you engage this lesson. Ask that your group might gain deeper insights on their time in Detroit and their collective and individual calls to live as Resurrection Revolutionaries.

## EXTRA RESOURCES

You do not need to access these resources in order to lead this lesson, but they are highly recommended if you are interested in learning more about helping young people discern God's call in their lives.

[“Toward a Prophetic Youth Ministry: Theory and Praxis in Urban Context” by Frenando Arzola Jr.](#)

[“Grounded in God Revised Edition: Listening Hearts Discernment for Group Deliberations” by Suzanne Farnham](#)

[“Lives to Offer: Accompanying Youth on Their Vocational Quests” by Dori Grinenko and Joyce Mercer](#)

[“Trouble Don't Last Always: Emancipatory Hope Among African American Adolescents” by Evelyn Parker](#)

[“Practicing Discernment with Youth: A Transformative Youth Ministry Approach” by David White](#)

[“Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus” by Mark Yaconelli](#)

[“Growing Souls: Experiments in Contemplative Youth Ministry” by Mark Yaconelli](#)

## INTRODUCTION

(10 minutes)

## LESSON PLAN

### 1. RITUAL

Begin your time together in a way that is meaningful for your group. Maybe you have a song you like to sing together, or a prayer you like to say.

### 2. REVIEW

It's been a few weeks since the Gathering, MYLE and DAYLE. What still stands out in your memory from our time together in Detroit?

### 3. GOALS

Tell the group that today's lesson will guide your group through a discernment process that will allow you to reflect on your time together in Detroit, interpret some of your experiences there, and then wonder together how God might be calling you to live now in your communities. They will have the chance to share some of their stories from Detroit and begin thinking about action steps they wish to take as a group and as individuals.

### 4. TEACH

Remind your group that the Rev. Dr. Luke Powery challenged us in his sermon on Wednesday night to become the ending of Mark's Gospel as Resurrection Revolutionaries. Share this quote from Dr. Powery with your group. Consider printing out copies of it so they can read along.

*Rise up Resurrection Revolutionaries! Because when you rise, something dies. And when you rise up with Jesus, death will die. Racism will die. Sexism will die. Classism will die. Homophobia will die. Militarism will die. And when you rise up together, you will be able to bear burdens. And when you rise up together you will be able to build bridges this week. When you rise up together, you will be able to break some chains. When you rise up together, you will be able to bring some hope to Detroit. And when you rise with Jesus, you say yes to **life** and you say yes to **love** and you say yes to **hope**. But at the same time you say no to **death**. And you say no to **hate**. And you say no to **despair**.*

Tell your group they will be spending some time thinking about their experiences in Detroit as experiences of good news (life, love and hope) or as experiences of bad news (death, hate and despair). Help them understand what these types of experiences might have been. These should be experiences, people or teachings that opened their eyes or exposed them to bad news or good news. Bad news (death, hate and despair) – homelessness, racism, blight, interpersonal conflict, etc. Good news (life, love and hope) – new beginnings, community organizing, reconciliation, forgiveness, etc.





*(20 minutes)*

## LESSON PLAN

### 1. REFLECTION

Give each participant a blank sheet of paper and a handful of crayons. Ask them to spread out and spend five minutes silently and prayerfully reflecting on their Proclaim Story day at the Youth Gathering. Ask them to remember two experiences from that day, an experience of good news (life, love and hope) and an experience of bad news (death, hate and despair). Have them draw a picture representing the good news on one side of the paper and the bad news on the other side of the paper.

### 2. DISCUSSION

Call the group back together after their five minutes of reflection and drawing. Break your group into smaller groups of no more than five people. Give them 10 minutes to share both pictures with their group and explain why they thought these to be experiences of good news and bad news.

### 3. PROCESS

Bring the whole group back together and ask the groups to briefly lift up their experiences of both good and bad news. List these on two separate large sheets of paper – one sheet of paper for the experiences of good news and one for the experiences of bad news.



*(20 minutes)*

### 1. REFLECTION

Ask participants to spread out again and spend five minutes silently and prayerfully reflecting on their Proclaim Justice day at the Youth Gathering. Ask them to remember two experiences from that day, an experience of good news (life, love and hope) and an experience of bad news (death, hate and despair). Have them think of a pose they can make with their body to represent each experience separately.

### 2. DISCUSSION

Call the group back together after their five minutes of reflection. Break your group into smaller groups of no more than five people. Give them 10 minutes to share both poses with their group and explain what experience the poses represent and why they thought these to be experiences of good news and bad news.

Many buses didn't launch as planned, and some groups participated in projects that didn't take much time to complete. If yours was one of those groups, invite your group to reflect on the disappointment and the way in which they processed or brought meaning to their disappointment. Encourage the group to ponder where the good news was in their day, even if it didn't go as they had hoped. If you are not one of those groups, you could reflect on the fact that not everyone's Proclaim Justice day went as planned.

# LESSON PLAN

## PROCLAIM JUSTICE

*(Continued)*



*(15 minutes)*

## MULTI-CULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT

*(15 minutes)*

If some or all of the group attended MYLE, take time to reflect upon their experiences.

### 3. PROCESS

Bring the whole group back together and ask the groups to briefly lift up their experiences of both good and bad news from their Proclaim Justice day. Add these to the two large sheets of paper you already started.

### 1. REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Have the participants pair up with someone. Ask them to discuss with their partner their experiences of good news and bad news from the Proclaim Community day.

### 2. PROCESS

Bring the whole group back together and ask the pairs to briefly lift up their experiences of both good and bad news from their Proclaim Community day. Add these to the two large sheets of paper you already started.

### 1. REFLECTION

MYLE's theme was "Love Does." Have each individual write Love Does... at the top of a blank piece of paper and give everyone two minutes to write as many endings to that sentence as they can think of. It can be words or themes that were taught at MYLE or endings that individuals make up on their own. Challenge people to write at least 20 endings!

### 2. DISCUSSION

When time is up, bring the group back together in a circle and go around having each person share one of their endings. Do this three or four times or as many as feels right for your group's size and personality.

### 3. PROCESS

- Talk together about how these Love Does phrases reflect good news. Do any of them speak of bad news?
- Have two or three participants share how they experienced love doing one of these things at MYLE or the Gathering.

## THE RADICAL GOSPEL

(25 minutes)

### LESSON PLAN



### SOCIAL MEDIA

#### 1. TEACH

Remind your group what the Rev. Rani Abdulmasih spoke about on Friday night at the Youth Gathering. He said the gospel of Jesus Christ is not just good news, but is dynamite. The gospel of Jesus Christ is powerful and radical.

#### 2. DISCUSS

Discuss these questions with your entire group.

- How were our experiences of good news at the Gathering radical experiences of the gospel of Jesus Christ in light of the bad news we experienced at the Gathering?
- Where or how do we see bad news in our community?
- What would be good news that might offset or eliminate this bad news?
- How would this good news be the radical gospel of Jesus Christ?
- How are we being called, as a group and as individuals, to share this radical good news as Resurrection Revolutionaries here in our community?
- If you had members of your group participate in DAYLE, encourage them to share how they were challenged through the theme of Crossing Together to share the good news by living lives of hope, being vulnerable and trusting in God.

On a new sheet of large paper, write down your group's ideas. Use these ideas to guide your planning for the next few months of ministry with these young people.

#### 3. PRAYER

Gather the group in a circle. Hold hands. Allow each person a chance to lift up one specific way they feel called to be a radical Resurrection Revolutionary. End with a brief thanksgiving to Jesus for the freedom we've been given to love and serve our neighbors.

After your group finishes this lesson, share some of the ways the group hopes to live as radical Resurrection Revolutionaries in your communities on [the ELCA Youth Gathering Facebook page](#). Use #RiseUpELCA!

## WORSHIP

Your group may choose to close this lesson with a brief time of worship. Use this litany if you feel so inclined. The words in bold type are intended for the whole group. Feel free to add a song or two, the celebration of Holy Communion and/or prayers specific to your congregation or community.

It has been said that art is a human act, a generous contribution, something that might not work, and something intended to change the recipient for the better, often causing a connection to happen. If that is true, the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering was art.

- 30,000 Lutheran humans acted on behalf of a city that needs champions.
- 30,000 Lutherans contributed generously – 1 million diapers and so much more!
- 30,000 Lutherans risked meeting in a city emerging from economic collapse.
- 30,000 Lutherans were changed for the better because they gave of themselves in service to others.

We thank God for using ELCA youth in Detroit to proclaim through our presence and through our service that Jesus is...

### **Good News!**

Jesus is...

### **Good News!**

Jesus is...

### **Good News!**

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**God of all grace, we give you thanks for the ministry of the ELCA Youth Gathering and for the people who made it possible for us to attend. We ask you to bless the people of Detroit with patience, perseverance and gratitude for the good news of the resurrection. Keep us motivated in your Spirit to act in solidarity with Detroiters as we bear burdens, build bridges, break chains and bring hope here in \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of community).**

**In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**