# It Takes Two

## Scripture and Tradition

### Edge Night Outline

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<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Youcat</th>
<th>Supplies Needed</th>
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<td>1 Corinthians 11:2</td>
<td># 12</td>
<td>• Catechism of the Catholic Church (several per group)</td>
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<td>2 Timothy 2:2</td>
<td># 141</td>
<td>• Poster board</td>
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<td>2 Thessalonians 2:13</td>
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<td>• Paper</td>
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<td>2 Thessalonians 2:15</td>
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### Catechism

<table>
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<th># 80-84</th>
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### Supplies Needed
- Rope
- Traffic cones
- Fun prizes
- Bible (several per group)
- Poster board
- Paper
- Pens and markers

### Goal
The goal of this Edge Night is to help the youth understand that Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture go together to reveal the great mystery of God.

### Edge Night at a Glance
God has always been revealing Himself to creation. While He can reveal Himself in a multitude of ways, there are two ways that God has guided the Church through the course of history. Sacred Tradition, or eyewitness accounts of who God is and how He has acted throughout history, is one. Sacred Scripture, or the Holy Bible is the better known second way. Regardless, the two are not opposed but instead go together to give the Church a complete revelation of who God is and what He is doing. In the Vatican II document on divine revelation, *Dei Verbum*, it is explained as such: “For sacred Scripture is the word of God inasmuch as it is consigned to writing under the inspiration of the divine Spirit.” For the discussion, it will be important to understand that when we speak of sacred Tradition, we do not mean a custom in a certain region or one that changes over time. Sacred Tradition consists of what has been handed down to us by the apostles through their teaching and preaching.

The night will start with a “pair up” game to enforce the point of Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture going together. The teaching will emphasize the necessity of both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. A time to process all of this will follow with an interactive game, several small group questions, and a unique activity to create a small group tradition. Finally, a time of prayer will close the night by discussing 1 Thessalonians 2:15 and handing out prayer cards.

### Before the Night
Make sure to incorporate an introduction video to the “Proclaim” to explain the value of a tradition. Also, make sure the supplies are set for the
various activities. You will need to cut the rope into three feet pieces so they can be used during the Gather activity.

ENVIRONMENT
Pair up anything and everything. From tables to signs to decorative trees, find as much as you can to pair up and put them throughout the room – especially at the front of the room. Create two banners for the front that say “It Takes Two!” You may want to include another banner that links Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture together.

GATHER
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
(10 min)
As the youth enter, have fun upbeat music playing in the background.

The youth minister should gather all the youth together, welcome them to Edge Night, and lead an opening prayer. He or she should introduce any youth at Edge Night for the first time and present a brief overview of the session.

PAIR UP!
(15 min)
Two-legged races! For these races, you can either have the small groups compete against each other or make the pairs compete. Have the middle school youth pair up and stand on one end of the room. Tie the two youth's legs together with rope and create and participate in a simple obstacle course with cones. Give prizes for quickest course time or most creative way to finish the course. If your group is too large, invite a group of youth volunteers to complete this activity. You may need to create several courses for larger groups.

MEDIA SUGGESTIONS
Song: “Love Has Come” by Matt Maher (The End and the Beginning, Spirit and Song)
Video: “Catholic Church – Commercial (TV Spot)” (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WujKBjch_yMg&feature=related)
Video: “Wales vs. New Zealand Haka and Response (whole video)” (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fYIUdVNFgU)

PROCLAIM
SCRIPTURE PROCLAMATION
(5 min)
Acts 2:42

“IT TAKES TWO” TEACHING
(10 min)
It Takes Two
Tonight we started with a little fun, but a way for us to see a very important aspect of our faith – that it takes two! As Catholics, we believe that God has revealed Himself to us in Scripture (the Word of God, the Bible) and also sacred Tradition. For us to understand God’s revelation – it takes two: Scripture and Tradition!

God Has Always Been Revealing Himself To Us.
When thinking about the Catholic Church’s rule of faith, its important to remember that the Word of God, also called the revelation of God, that is, how God reveals who He is, has always existed. Always. Always, as in even before the world was created; always, as in before dinosaurs strolled around the planet; always, as in before people appeared on earth, and always as in before they were able to find a chisel under their sofa cushions and write down how God was acting throughout history. Always is a very long time.
It's important to realize this as we think about how we come to know God. You may hear people say that they come to know God and the power of His work through the beauty of nature and certainly this is true. The first people on the planet surely came to know God though creation, through the gifts of nature that sustained them. They learned how to live using the gifts that God gave them and then they shared this knowledge with their children. God was there acting in their lives and it was in creation that those people came to know Him.

We still come to know God today through creation but also in other ways. We have the benefit of learning how God has acted throughout human history because that knowledge has been shared via word of mouth from one generation to the next. We have the gift of the teachings of the apostles that give us first hand information about who God is in the person of Jesus Christ.

What is Tradition and How is it Different?
These eyewitness accounts of who God is and how He has acted throughout history are called Sacred Tradition and were passed down through the preaching and the teaching of the apostles. Sacred Tradition, that is Tradition with a capital “T”, is different from the small “t” tradition that we think of when we’re talking about events or rituals that families or communities engage in. Small “t” traditions include what your family does on holidays or when you decide to put up your Christmas tree and decorate it (include a brief personal example or two of your family's traditions). These are things that are handed down within our families and our communities.

Sacred Tradition is also handed down, but what makes Tradition with a capital "T" different from small "t" tradition is that these Traditions are truths of the faith given to the Apostles by Jesus and faithfully transmitted to every generation. That makes these Traditions part of Divine Revelation – they help us to know God. Sacred Tradition is God revealing himself to us. The small "t" traditions are simply customs of our family or community.

Scripture and Tradition Go Together
At first these Traditions were passed along orally. The first Christians believed that Jesus would be returning within their lifetimes. The apostles shared what they experienced in Christ with their communities and those events were faithfully passed on. Eventually, as time went by, people inspired by God and filled with the Holy Spirit wrote down this Sacred Tradition and this is what became Sacred Scripture – the Bible. Sacred Scripture is the written tradition of our faith.

You may hear people of other religious denominations say that their rule of faith is based on Scripture, the written word of God, alone. You may also hear that Catholics pay more attention to Tradition than to Scripture. That is far from the truth! Sacred Tradition is not in opposition to Scripture; rather they support and compliment each other. Here's what the Catechism of the Catholic Church has to say:

“Its not that one is better than the other, or that we can choose just one of them, we need both and they need each other. Both of these methods of sharing the faith of the church come from the same source – God – and have the same goal, that is, “to make present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ” (CCC 80).

While many of the Traditions of the early church were in fact written into Scripture, relying only on the written part of revelation would just give us part of the picture. The Catholic Church's rule of faith is the entire Word of God - both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

There is an Absolute Truth
It's important for us to be informed about both Scripture and Tradition to help us grow in our relationship to God, each other, and to help us live lives of holiness. You're probably aware that the culture we live in teaches us that you can believe whatever you want, live how you want and as long as you're not hurting anyone its OK. This isn't what Christ preached and taught. There is an absolute truth and it's not what each individual person thinks it is. It’s the truth of God and knowing that both Scripture and Tradition reveal that to us help us understand what truth is and how knowing that truth affects our lives.

Scripture and Tradition in Your Life
God desires that you would come to know Him through Scripture and being a part of the traditions and Traditions of the Catholic Church. This is why we talk about reading the Bible, but
it is also the reason we come to learn about our faith: it takes two! God is revealing Himself to you through His very Word and through the sacred Traditions of our Church.

BREAK

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
(15 min)

As your small group begins, say a prayer for the group and the activities for that session.

Discuss the following questions:

• What is our theme, “It Takes Two” about tonight and why is it important? (Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition)

• God reveals Himself to us in the Bible – what does He reveal about Himself? (He is loving, sent His Son, desires us to know Him, etc.)

• What is the difference between small “t” tradition and capital “T” Tradition? (tradition may be local customs or those that change; Tradition comes from the teaching and preaching of the apostles)

• Why do we need both Scripture and Tradition to grow in our faith? (both are an important part of God’s revelation)

• Why do we need the Catholic Church to help us understand and know God (why not just read the Bible)? (because it can be easy to think the Bible says what we want it to say, but we need the Church’s guidance to help us know the full truth of what is being said in the Bible)

• When you are unsure of what we believe, what are the two places you can go to better understand your faith? (Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Church)

• Listen to the following quote from the YOUCAT (the Youth Catechism):

“The New Testament developed out of the faith of the Church. Scripture and Tradition belong together. Handing on the faith does not occur primarily through documents. In the early Church it was said that Sacred Scripture was ‘written on the heart of the Church rather than on parchment.’ ...The first Christians held fast ‘to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers’ (Acts 2:42).”

What do we learn about Scripture and Tradition from this quote?

TAKE A GUESS
(15 min)

Pass out Bibles and a Catechism of the Catholic Church to the group. Let the youth know you will read either a Bible verse or a statement from the Catechism. Ask them to first guess where they think the quote is from. Once the group comes to a consensus, let the group know the correct answer and then go to either the Bible or the Catechism and have the youth read it from the source.

• “I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you.” (Answer: Bible; 1 Corinthians 11:2)

• “What Christ entrusted to the apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to all generations, until Christ returns in glory.” (Answer: Catechism; 96)

• “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.” (Answer: Bible; 2 Thessalonians 2:15)

• “The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him.” (Answer: Catechism; 100)

• “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in
accord with the traditions that you received from us.” (Answer: Bible; 2 Thessalonians 3:6)

• “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.” (Answer: Bible; Philippians 4:9)

• “By love, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. He has thus provided the definitive, superabundant answer to the questions that man asks himself about the meaning and purpose of his life.” (Answer: Catechism; 68)

CREATE A TRADITION
(10 min)

The idea behind this activity is to help the youth understand the importance of tradition and how tradition can help us to draw closer to God. This particular tradition is not a “T” Tradition, but an example of a small tradition that can help the youth draw closer to Christ.

As a small group, brainstorm and create a tradition that the small group will participate in every week. Some examples: the group will pray a certain prayer each week during small group; during the week, each member of the group will pray a rosary at a certain time. Give the youth a chance to think of a couple and then vote on a particular tradition. Write that tradition down on the poster board, and then have the youth sign it/ decorate it (as time allows).

SEND

LARGE GROUP PROCESS
(5 min)

As time allows, have groups share their small group traditions with the large group.

CLOSING PRAYER
(5 min)

The closing prayer will focus on a prayer given to us by Jesus in Scripture and that we pray each week as a part of the Mass: The Our Father.

Ask the youth to listen to this prayer, invite them to reflect with you:

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” – Through the first part of this prayer, we acknowledge God’s goodness, His greatness, and His holiness. This week, remember to keep God’s name holy and remember His goodness.

“Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” – Jesus is teaching us to be open to God’s will and not so focused just on the things we want. This week, tell God that you are open to His will.

“Give us this day our daily bread.” – All good gifts come from God. Ask God for those things that you need.

“And forgive us our trespasses; as we forgive those who trespass against us.” – We need to be aware of those ways that we hurt our relationship with God. Christ is also telling us that we need to have open hearts to forgive those who hurt us. Work on forgiving those who have hurt you and seek out God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to say you are sorry for the way you’ve hurt/offended God.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” – Jesus wants us to recognize that God’s plan for our lives is for good and we need to cling to Him and turn away from what is evil. Praying each day helps us to recognize how God provides for us.

Let’s now together pray: “Our Father, who art in heaven...”

SUMMARY CHALLENGE

Before the middle school youth are sent home, they will be challenged to remember:

• God is always revealing Himself to us.

• Eyewitness accounts of who God is and how he has acted throughout history is called Tradition.

• Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition go together to reveal what God is doing.

• This week, we challenge you to remember your small group tradition and to take some time to
read Scripture and to experience our Sacred Traditions by attending Mass.

**TO THE PARENTS OF**

During this Edge session, we discussed Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture as the two ways that God reveals Himself to us. For many of us, we understand Sacred Scripture (Bible) is the Word of God and helps us to understand God – His goodness, love, and mercy. Sacred Tradition, however, is often not as clear. Sacred Tradition (spelled with a capital “T”) refers to what the apostles and disciples (eyewitnesses) taught and wrote and thus passed down. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles and disciples did not begin writing the books or letters we now know as the Bible because they believed that Jesus was going to be coming back soon. Therefore, the apostles were teaching and preaching and instructing people how to live their lives according to Jesus’ words/way of life. This is where we get our Sacred Traditions. As Catholics, we believe the two go together to reveal what God has said and done. As an aside, we also talked about some of our small “t” traditions – often these are local customs or family traditions (what you do together on holidays or when you set up and decorate your tree at Christmas). Each small group was encouraged to establish a tradition that might either be carried out as a group or during the week when the youth are not at Edge.

Here are some questions to help start a conversation with your youth about what he/she learned during Edge:

- What are examples of how God reveals Himself to us?
- What is Sacred Tradition?
- How are Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture related?
- What is the difference between a small “t” tradition and capital “T” Tradition?
- Tell me about the tradition your small group came up with during Edge.

**ADAPTATION IDEAS**

- Instead of using the pre-selected videos, feel free to include local or church tradition based videos instead.
- For larger groups, adapt the “Gather” to only include two youth from each group to compete.
- Invite the priest or deacon to explain how Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are used in the Mass.
IT TAKES TWO CHECKLIST

EDGE NIGHT CHECKLIST

CORE PLANNING TEAM:

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

DATE OF LIFE NIGHT:

____________________________________________

ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE NIGHT:

☐ Give copies of the Edge Night to each of the members of the planning team. Each person should read the Scripture, Catechism, and YOUCA references as well as review the planning guide before the brainstorming meeting.

☐ Have the planning team meet for a brainstorming meeting (this should last no longer than 1 hour). The team prays and discusses where the youth are in their faith journey in relation to this topic. Using this planning guide as a starting point, the team adapts the Edge Night to meet the needs of the youth and the parish.

☐ Assign the person responsible for the following:

Environment ________________________________
Before the Night (when needed) ______________
Audio/Visual Needs __________________________
Opening Prayer ______________________________
ScriptureProclamation________________________
Proclaim (discuss with YM) ____________________
Summary Challenge __________________________

TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EDGE NIGHT:

☐ Turn in your notes for the Edge Night to the youth minister. Allow the youth minister to give feedback and make necessary changes.

☐ Create a list of needed supplies and materials. Assign a person to be responsible for collecting and/or purchasing the items needed.

☐ Discuss with the youth minister who will be giving the Proclaim/witness for the Edge Night. Be sure that this person is given the script and/or teaching. Inform them of any practices, time limits, and/or deadlines.

WEEK OF THE EDGE NIGHT:

☐ Person giving Proclaim checks in with youth minister.

☐ Check that all supplies have been obtained/purchased.

☐ Create/collect items for environment. Have volunteers ready to help if needed.

☐ Email Core Team an overview of the Edge Night.

DAY OF THE EDGE NIGHT:

☐ Set up the environment. Make sure the room is clean and presentable.

☐ If needed, set up audio/visual equipment. Test the video clips to make sure both picture and sound work.

☐ Pray! Pray for the youth attending the Edge Night. Pray for God’s will to be done through the night. Pray over those involved.
# EDGE NIGHT EVALUATION

## INSTRUCTIONS:
Use the following questions to discuss and evaluate your Edge Night.

1. On a scale of 1-10, how well did this Edge Night accomplish the goal we set? Explain.

2. What was the strongest aspect of this Edge Night?

3. What kind of follow-up do we need to do after this Edge Night?

4. What can we improve for future Edge Nights? How can we accomplish this?

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