

CAPTAIN MARVEL

How Do I Treat Others Fairly?

EDGE NIGHT AT A GLANCE



Scripture

Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; Psalm 37:27-31; Proverbs 21:15; Isaiah 1:16-17; Matthew 25:40



Catechism

1807



Resources

Spotify: “ES - A Great Marvel” (spotify:user:lifeteen)

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the youth to begin to choose — just as Captain Marvel does — to seek justice, fight for the common good, and act in ways that uphold the God-given rights of each person.

GATHER

The youth play a game of “elbow tag” based on the Skrull characters from the movie Captain Marvel. The purpose of this game is for the youth to have fun and enter into the theme of the Edge Night.

PROCLAIM

The following are the main teaching points of the Proclaim:

- The virtue of justice helps us give every person what is rightfully theirs and ultimately treat them the way God desires them to be treated.
- Captain Marvel is an example of justice because she uses her power to fight for the common good and those who need protection.

- Each of us is called to be fair in our daily interactions with others, bringing peace to those around us and treating them as Jesus would, according to the dignity they have in God’s eyes.

BREAK

The youth work through their Origin Story handout reflecting on how to put into action the Corporal Works of Mercy. The purpose of this handout is to help the youth see the heart of the work of justice and that justice is something we do out of our love for God and our neighbor.

SEND

The youth pray the Litany of Humility to help them remain focused on the fact that while we can do good works, it is Jesus who is the savior and all our good works should point others to Him and not to us.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Choose one work of mercy to do this week with your family or friends.

Notes: _____

CAPTAIN MARVEL

How Do I Treat Others Fairly?

EDGE NIGHT SET UP

SET UP

Print copies of the *My Origin Story - Justice* handout for the Break activity. Handouts can be found on the *August 2021 Edge USB* or online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2021*. For each of the Edge Nights in this semester that teaches a specific virtue, the youth will be given a handout that has to do with their own “origin story.” These handouts provide them with a way to reflect and process how to apply the specific virtue to their lives as middle schoolers. The goal is that they learn to apply the virtues while they are still young and form good habits that influence them for the rest of their lives, hence the title “Origin Story.”

Add to the set environment for the semester by adding cutouts or posters of Captain Marvel. Also create a poster with the word justice on it along with its definition found below, if you have Hispanic/Latino youth also use the Spanish translation.

Justice: Giving every person what is rightfully theirs and ultimately treating them the way God desires them to be treated.

Justicia: Dar a cada persona lo que le corresponde por derecho y, en última instancia, tratarla de la manera que Dios desea que sea tratada.

SUPPLIES

The following is a list of supplies needed for the Edge Night:

- B: *My Origin Story - Justice* handout, one per youth
- B: Pens or pencils, one per youth
- S: *Litany of Humility* handout

ASSIGNMENTS

Use the following list to assign core members to specific tasks:

Set Up: _____, _____, _____

Gather:

- Opening Prayer: _____
- Game: _____

CAPTAIN MARVEL

How Do I Treat Others Fairly?

EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth, introduce any youth who are there for the first time, and begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the topic of the Edge Night, using the following as an example:

Justice is a word we hear a lot. There are many people who do good work to create a more just world and to help those in need. It is good for us to promote a just society, but what does it actually mean to be a just person? How does justice actually take root in our hearts? What does it have to do with our relationship with others, and what does it have to do with our relationship with God? This week we will be diving into the virtue of justice through the example of the character, Captain Marvel.

Weekly Challenge Check In (5 min)

Ask any youth who are willing to share about their experience with the weekly challenge from the previous Edge Night: Choose one thing this week that you spend an excessive amount of time doing and spend some of that time doing another good activity.

Secret Invasion (10 min)

This game is played in a large group.

1. Assign one youth to be the hero and one youth to be a Skrull. Skrulls are characters from the movie Captain Marvel. They are shapeshifters that can transform their appearance to look like anyone else.
2. The objective of the game is for the Skrull to avoid being tagged by the Hero and for the Hero to tag the Skrull.
3. Have all of the youth, except for the Hero and the Skrull, find a partner and link arms at the elbow. Pairs of youth spread out around the room.
4. The Hero goes to one side of the room and the Skrull goes to the opposite side of the room.
5. When the game begins, the Hero tries to tag the Skrull. The Skrull, however, can run and link arms with one of the pairs of youth. When a Skrull links elbows with a pair of youth, the youth whose arm was not linked to the Skrull then becomes the Skrull and must unlink from the pair and run around avoiding the Hero.

6. The game continues until the Hero tags the current Skrull and they swap roles, and the game begins again.
7. Play for as long as time allows.

PROCLAIM

“Captain Marvel” Proclaim Teaching (10 min)

The teaching can be found on pages 58 to 61. The following main points are covered in the teaching:

- The virtue of justice helps us give every person what is rightfully theirs and ultimately treat them the way God desires them to be treated.
- Captain Marvel is an example of justice because she uses her power to fight for the common good and those who need protection.
- Each of us is called to be fair in our daily interactions with others, bringing peace to those around us and treating them as Jesus would, according to the dignity they have in God’s eyes.

BREAK

Origin Story: Justice (15 min)

Break the youth into their small groups, begin in prayer, and give each of the youth a copy of the *My Origin Story - Justice* handout found on the *August 2021 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2021*.

Allow the youth to individually think through the ways they are already doing or could be doing, each of the Corporal Works of Mercy. After five minutes, ask them to share some of their ideas during this time of reflection and finish going through the list brainstorming together as a small group.

Small Group Discussion (15 mins)

After the youth have completed the handouts, gather them back together and use the following to foster a time of discussion:

- *Whip-Around Question:* If you could rid the world completely of one form of suffering what would it be?
- Which one of the Corporal Works of Mercy were you already doing in some small way? Which one have you never experienced?
- Why do you think Jesus asks us to do these things in particular? How do they show love for our neighbor?
- What is one Corporal Work of Mercy that you want to try doing with your family sometime this month?

Eighth-Grade Adaptations

Use the following for a more challenging discussion for eighth-grade youth:

- What do you think about when you hear the word justice?
- What are some examples you have seen in the world of people doing works of justice?
- How do you think our faith plays a role in how we approach doing works of justice?
- How do you think doing the Corporal Works of Mercy could help you grow in your relationship with Jesus? How can it help you grow in your love of neighbor?
- Which Corporal Work of Mercy do you find the most challenging? Why? How could you rise to the challenge and do this work of mercy?

SEND

Exhortation and Litany of Humility (10 min)

Gather the youth back into the large group, and use the following to introduce the time of prayer:

It can be easy to get caught up in the good works that we do and seek attention from others for what we do. We can also think it is up to us to be the heroes in the story of making our world a better place. While it is important to do good things for others, we have to remember that God is always the main hero of the story. Our role is to serve our brothers and sisters in the world, especially those most in need, and to glorify God, not ourselves. We are not the savior of those in need. God is. We are blessed to be called by God to work towards justice in the world, but that does not make us any better than those we serve — having all the same dignity and worth but our stories just playing out differently. When we serve others, we are not the judge nor are we superior to them. We are humble servants, and we need to remember to be humble in whatever way we serve. To help us remember this, we are going to pray the Litany of Humility as a group. As we pray, listen carefully to the words of this prayer, and respond with the appropriate responses.

Project the Litany of Humility below. Before praying through the litany, read it together as a group and ask the youth if there are any words in the prayer that they do not understand — or go through the prayer and pick out words to explain you know already they may not understand. Once you have done this, lead the youth through praying the litany.

The Litany of Humility

By: Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val y Zulueta

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed, **deliver me, O Jesus.**

From the desire of being loved, **deliver me, O Jesus.**

From the desire of being extolled, **deliver me, O Jesus.**

From the desire of being honored, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the desire of being praised, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the desire of being preferred to others, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the desire of being consulted, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the desire of being approved, **deliver me, O Jesus..**
From the fear of being humiliated, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the fear of being despised, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the fear of suffering rebukes, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the fear of being calumniated, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the fear of being forgotten, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the fear of being ridiculed, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the fear of being wronged, **deliver me, O Jesus.**
From the fear of being suspected, **deliver me, O Jesus.**

That others may be loved more than I, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**
That others may be esteemed more than I, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**
That others may be chosen and I set aside, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**
That others may be praised and I unnoticed, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**
That others may be preferred to me in everything, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

After the prayer, ask any youth who are willing to share what stood out to them the most in the prayer and why. This could be something that really challenged them or brought them peace.

Close the Edge Night by praying a Hail Mary as a large group. Following the prayer, give the youth their weekly challenge.

Weekly Challenge (5 min)

Choose one Work of Mercy to do this week with your family or friends.

Notes: _____

CAPTAIN MARVEL

How Do I Treat Others Fairly?

EDGE NIGHT PROCLAIM

GETTING STARTED

This teaching is provided to give you an example of how to present this topic in an age-appropriate way, making it relevant to middle school youth. If the youth are ready to take it deeper, incorporate a few of the *Going Deeper* call-out boxes, picking the ones the youth would relate to the most. If there are Hispanic/Latino youth in the youth group, incorporate the applicable suggestions from the *Hispanic Inculturation* call-out boxes.

TEACHING GUIDE

Through God's Eyes

Ask some of the youth to share what they think of when they hear the word justice. Write your own thoughts here:

- The word justice can be used in a lot of different ways and we may have seen many different examples of justice in our own lives and communities. We hear people talk about social justice, justice for the poor, justice for the oppressed, injustice, etc. But what does justice really mean — especially in regards to living out our faith?
- Justice, simply put, is giving God and others what is due to them. Let's break this open, starting with God. (CCC 1807)



Hispanic Inculturation

Discussing the virtue of justice with Hispanic/Latino youth can be difficult as many of them have had a variety of experiences of injustice, depending on their communities or family history. For many Hispanic/Latino youth it can be hard to understand and deal with their emotions surrounding the topic of justice. There can be difficulty in understanding how to process horrible and tragic situations they see through the news or in their own communities and what they can actually do about those situations. A large quantity of Hispanic/Latino households face the reality of immigration and larger issues of justice within their cultural communities. In teaching the virtue of justice during the Edge Night, boldly share the beauty of God's desire for justice and giving to each what is due to them. This definition of justice can help the youth understand how standing up for what is right, and for the rights of others, is something that can make an impact not just in their own communities but everywhere.

- God created us and He sustains us. Through the sacraments and His Church, God shares His grace and mercy with us. Even when we sinned, God did not leave us to fend for ourselves but sent His only Son Jesus Christ to save us and restore our relationship with God. In short, God has done everything for us. (John 3:16, CCC 1)
- Justice is directly related to recognizing how much God has done for us. The first part of justice is giving God what is due to Him. Since He has given everything to us, it is fitting that we try to give Him everything in return. We should love Him, serve Him, and follow Him with our whole heart, our whole mind, our whole soul, and all of our strength. (CCC 2083, Luke 10:27)
- When we can give to God what is due to Him, we can begin to understand what it means to give to others what is due to them.
- Every single person has God-given rights and dignity that do not change and cannot be taken away by their own action or the actions of others. Just like you and me, every person is created, loved, and cared for by God. Treating others with justice means that we treat them in accord with the way that God sees them. This includes upholding their dignity and worth as a person, as well as doing what we can to care for them and provide for their needs. (CCC 2401)

Captain Marvel

- Most superheroes, in one way or another, live out part of the virtue of justice. They fight for the common good and for the dignity and rights of each person. However, one superhero who takes this to a universal scale is Captain Marvel.
- To summarize a long story, Captain Marvel was a normal human training to be a pilot, but one day she ended up in an explosion that resulted in her having superpowers. After that, she lost her memory, couldn't remember who she was, and was taken to another planet where she was trained to be a great warrior.
- While fighting against her ruthless enemies, Captain Marvel realized who she really was and that these people weren't enemies at all but refugees who were fighting to survive and find a home. She thought she was fighting an enemy, but in reality, she was fighting those who needed her protection most.

- After this discovery, Captain Marvel helped these refugees find a new home and resolved to patrol the universe fighting for those in need and protecting those who cannot protect themselves.
- Captain Marvel realizes that there are people in the world who are not being treated fairly, and she does something about it. This is how she is an example of the virtue of justice. She upholds the dignity of each person and does what she can to protect the common good.

For the Other

- While we do not have any superpowers, and may not be able to fight huge battles for the good of others, we can make a big difference by upholding the dignity of others in small ways every day. (CCC 1700)
- Justice is not always about momentous events, but rather about the way we treat the people around us in normal, everyday situations. While there are some landmark occasions throughout history that are great victories for justice, what really can change the world is how we treat those around us.
- Each person is worthy of our care, attention, love, and respect. We have an obligation to uphold their dignity, and at times to fight for the common good. This is what God does for us, and it is what He desires us to do for others. Even more than that, Jesus tells us that what we do to our brothers and sisters in need, we do to Him. (CCC 2447)

Read Matthew 25:31-40.

- You may be thinking, “I don’t really see a lot of hungry, thirsty, or naked people that often and I can’t visit people in prison so what does this have to do with me?” Jesus’ words, while referring to specific Works of Mercy, apply to the people we encounter each and every day as well. While it is important that we do acts of mercy like going to help at soup kitchens, donating our clothes, or giving money to organizations — at the heart of it, we are called to treat each person as if they were Jesus.

Give the youth some other practical ways they can live out these Corporal Works of Mercy that they might not immediately think of. For example, attending a funeral, visiting their grandparents in a nursing home, sharing lunch money with someone at school, or praying for prisoners. Write your own thoughts here:



Going Deeper

Jesus' commands from this parable in the Gospel of Matthew have traditionally been known as the Corporal Works of Mercy. In addition to these, however, the Church has developed Spiritual Works of Mercy as well. These are good things we can do for our neighbors that don't help their material needs but their spiritual needs. They include actions like bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries, and admonishing sinners. These are additional ways we can live out justice with the people in our lives. Teaching our friends about the faith, forgiving people who hurt us, being patient with those who annoy us — all of these are ways we can treat others according to their dignity and help uphold their good.

- If we just think about the people we see every day, we can see that there are plenty of ways to live out justice. One easy first step is thinking of those in our school who are made fun of or bullied. They do not deserve to be treated this way, and it is our responsibility to speak up on their behalf. It may be hard to stick up for them, but it is the right thing to do.
- We can also show justice in the way we use our social media. Spreading lies about others or shaming them is not treating them the way God would want us to, and it is not the way we want others to treat us.
- Even the way we treat our family can be an opportunity for us to live out justice. We can honor and obey our parents and be kind to our siblings. We are called, as followers of Christ, to bring peace and life to the world and to every person, not to add to the hurt, suffering, and injustice.

Read Micah 6:8.

- God wants us to be just, to love others, and to walk humbly with Him. It may be hard at times, but if we stay rooted in God, we can truly live out the virtue of justice. We just need to remember how He cares for each person, and how much He has done for us. If we keep these two things at the front of our minds, they will help us live the virtue of justice.

Notes: _____
