

EcoFaith Youth Camp 2014

Day 1

(Nathan) Welcome everyone! We're going to get started. First off, some logistics. You've already seen that we have some snacks set out for you and you're welcome to continue eating as we go. We'll have breakfast snacks for you each day. There is a bathroom just outside in the hall and bigger bathrooms downstairs. You may have also seen that we have some journals set out on the table. If you haven't already, please choose one that you'll keep during your week. This is a journal for you to write down what you're experiencing to remember what the week is about and what you want to take from it. It's your journal, so use it how you want to use it. We'll give more invitations around the journal later, but for now, we just wanted to make sure everyone has one.

Okay, so on from logistics--we're really glad you're here for the Eco-faith Youth Project. Many of you were here last year, and some of what we'll be experiencing will be similar to last year, and some will be new. We encourage you to come to the experience as a new person, with one more year of experience, ready to encounter this again with a fresh perspective and looking for things that you might not have seen last year.

As you know, this project is about coming together to learn about the connections between the environment, economy, and our faith. This week we'll be going into some heavy and sometimes depressing stuff, but we'll also be talking about the hope and opportunity that comes from knowing our stories and responding together. The planning team has been working hard to prepare everything, and we're excited you're here for this week. We'll go over the schedule for the week now and after we'll do some intro's and games.

(any questions about the agenda for the week?)

-Intro's (names, school, year, and favorite activity)

(Jonathan) Please say your name, the school you go/went to, what year you're in, and favorite activity. If you're on the planning team, please let us know that as well.

(Jonathan) Now we're going to do one more round, but this time we'll do 2 truths and lie. Does everyone know how to play? Each person will say 3 statements about themselves, and we have to guess which one is a lie.

-Ice breakers: 2 truths and a lie (15 min)

(Nathan) We're going to start by watching a short video to set some context for us. It's called Leaps and Bounds and it's by a person named Tevyn East, who travels around the country doing a one person show for folks. Feel free to keep your journal handy to jot down any thoughts or questions.

Setting the context: Tevyn East video (0:00-4:40)

So again, we are here this week to talk about the relationship between the environment, the economy and our faith and what it all means for us. Tevyn put the questions well: Can we regain or restore balance? What happened in our relationship with Earth? How does faith speak to our relationship with creation?

Popular education, made most well known by Paulo Friere, says that all we need to know is already within us as a community. Let's get us started in sharing what we know.

What do we know about what's happening with the environment and the economy, in our lives and in the world? We're going to start with by journaling, just doing a brainstorm of whatever comes to our minds with this. There are no right answers. We're just trying to get a starting place or where we are. If you were here last year, think about what you remember from the following year. We'll take about 5 minutes to journal and we'll have a little time to share.

-What do we know about economics and the environment?

-take a moment to journal about it (5 min)

-write down on wall sheet (start with environment and then economy—7 min, 3 min)

(Jonathan) Now we're going to watch a you tube video called Generation Waking Up. We'll have some time talk about it after we're done, so be sure to write some thoughts and questions that come up for you as you're watching.

-Generation Waking up

-What came up for you in this? Share in the large group .

(10 minutes)

Break (15 min)

(Karin) One important environmental leader and organizer is named Bill McKibben. Some of you may have heard of his work before. We're going to watch part of one of his videos where he shares more about what's going on with the Earth.

-Do the Math video (Bill McKibben—8:00-13:45)

Alright. So, this is some pretty heavy stuff, yes? Any initial reactions? How are you feeling? The numbers we saw are some pretty important numbers, and I want to focus in for a moment to think about how it will affect our lives. In the video, Bill said that at our current rate, we will reach that 2 degree C in 14 years. What I want you to do is think about how old you will be in 14 years. Write it down. How old will members of your family be? What comes up for you when you hear this? (allow 20 minutes if needed)

Back up questions: Why is this important? Why is this 2 degrees going to impact our world? What do you think will happen when we hit that 2 degree mark? (landscape are going to be destroyed, animals are going to die, etc.) Tie in land rights from Great Work—talk about who has power, social status as well. What does this have to do with the 2nd creation story? What is our role in this as Christians? And what is our role as people living with privilege in the United States?

(Nathan) Game break—chairs in a circle, stand up if...

Stand If [4 min.]

Just to get a sense for who's in the room, we want to engage in a quick exercise called "Stand If" where you'll stand up if what I ask is true for you. Here we go.

(Generate your own or revise these based on what is relevant to the group. You can also invite people to popcorn & stand up to offer their own after you've demonstrated a few examples)

Stand if you are (in high school/ college/ post-college or freshman/ sophomore/ junior/ senior).

*Stand if you play a sport Stand if you consider yourself an artist
Stand if you traveled here by bike? By car? By plane? Stand if you you 8+ hours of sleep last night.
How bout 5 hrs or less?! Stand if you speak more than one language. More than 2? Stand if you play a
musical instrument Stand if you like camping.*

(Jonathan) We'd now like to make a bit of a transition to thinking about our stories and who we are. As we heard in the Generation Waking up video, this is a new thing for our generation. They talked about how we are a unique generation—we're more educated and globally oriented, but we have some serious challenges ahead of us too. Part of organizing and responding to this is about getting connected to our stories, and our family stories in particular. Let's think about how our grandparents and parents thought about this and how they may relate to it now. We're going to get in pairs for this next activity. We've got a list of questions that we want you to talk about together for about 15 minutes and then we're going to come back to the group all together to share. Here are the questions to talk about:

- Do you have conversations with your parents about this? (suggest going home to talk to your family if they've realized this is a problem)
- What do you think were some of the biggest issues of our grandparents and parent's time?
- What do your parents/grandparents think about the environmental crisis now and how to respond to it?
- If you were a part of this last year, how has this changed in this last year with regard to your family? How has it changed you? What's different?

Pairs (15 min)

Large group share out (15 min)

(Nathan) We've now spent time getting an introduction to our generation's main issues, some of the numbers we're dealing with, and our family stories around the environment and economy.

In just a bit, we'll get our lunches and head out for the Gorge to do some hiking for the afternoon. Before we leave, we're going to watch one last video to set us up for our hike. This is John O'Donahue, an Irish preist and poet. (Chapter 2-4:00)

As we go out to the Gorge, we want to invite you to think about how the land around you is a living landscape. Pay attention to what you experience in this new way of thinking. We also want invite you to take your journals with you this afternoon in case you want to write in them later. After we're done this afternoon, we'll come back at 4:30 to Central for a final reflection time.

(When there, ask folks to pick up a piece from nature that you connect with)

Final Reflection

(Nathan) Each day we'll have some time at the end of the day to share some of what's going on for us. This could be a time to share thoughts, feelings, questions, poetry, songs, art, what's in your journal, whatever you want. Today we'll have about 20 or 30 minutes to share. So just to get us going, here's what came up for me the most today:

So we've covered a fair bit of ground today, some of which is depressing, some inspiring. Our hope tonight as you leave is that you take your thoughts and questions home with you and invite you to talk to your friends or family about what you're learning. As a way of ending the day, we'd like to show an inspirational video called "Generation We"

End of the day: Apocalypse by Alec

Don't forget to bring tomorrow: water bottles, journals, clothes to go kayaking in, sun screen.