

“What’s That Again, Jesus?” III

by Carol Duerksen

This series of lessons is set up to be used as a day-long or overnight retreat for your youth. If you want to do a day retreat, do parts 1 and 2 in the morning, and 3 and 4 in the afternoon. For an overnight retreat, do session 1 in the evening, and 2, 3 and 4 the next day. You could also divide it up and use different lessons for youth group or Sunday school meetings.

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Movies:** *Hotel Rwanda* and *Mother Teresa*, and the equipment to show them to the group. Preview the clips you will be showing.
- 2 Newsprint and markers
- 3 Bibles for each student
- 4 Digital camera with video capabilities or video camera and a laptop to show the footage.
- 5 Poster board and variety of colorful markers
- 6 Prizes
- 7 Someone should be prepared to recite from memory the story “Jesus Wasn’t Normal” found at the end of session two. Second best would be to have it read dramatically.
- 8 Unique new pencils—more than one per student so they have a choice.
- 9 Paper for journaling or drawing

THIRD PART:

Assign the following four readings to youth and ask them to present them to the group:

One: A big part of Jesus’ early ministry was talking about inclusion—inclusion of the poor, the unclean, the dregs of society. Are we as Christians doing enough to carry that through? If not, why not? What should we be doing that we’re not doing?

Two: I think a lot of churches need to quit pretending gay people aren’t there. We are just sticking our head in the sand and acting all uncomfortable and I think we need to be honest and really talk about it.

Three: Our church is really complacent. I think we should do more to help poor people, especially in other countries. We just spent a ridiculous amount of money on new choir robes and I think that’s just wrong. I don’t think God cares how our choir is dressed!

Four: We do a lot of outreach and mission work but I think we could do more. I think instead of one mission trip in the summer we should be doing more here at home.

Ask youth if they agree with the three responses to the questions posed by Reader One. What are their answers to the questions? Make a list of their responses.

Watch the entire video "Mother Teresa."

When the video is over, invite students to choose a pencil from the unique pencils. Ask them to consider what it would mean for them to be "a pencil in the hands of God" as described by Mother Teresa. Invite them to either journal or draw their thoughts about being "God's pencil." Assure them that this is private exercise that they will not have to share with others.

Close this session with this prayer:

God, we may not be Mother Teresa's, but we are your children, and we are your hands, eyes and ears in this world. You are all powerful and you can make your mark in this world any way you want to. The amazing thing is that you want to use us to make those marks. You want to use us to make a difference. Open us to those opportunities. Amen.