

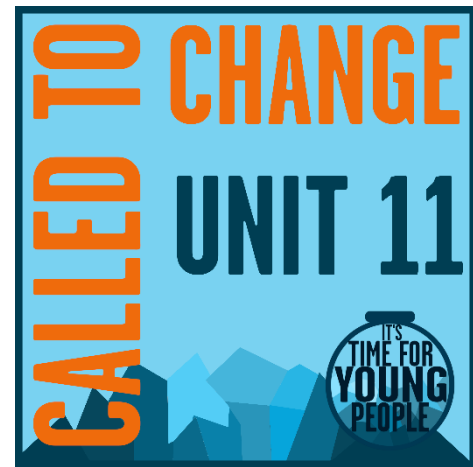
CALLED TO CHANGE

our conversion



What is conversion? What does it look and feel like? How does it change a life? What makes someone sacrifice everything to give their life to the Lord? Is it truly possible that you find greater joy and freedom by submitting yourself to Christ?

These are big questions. This resource has hoped to demonstrate that Christianity is not only about going to church, it is about a way of *being* in the world and determines how someone lives their life. As well as taking the opportunity to pose these deep questions, this unit also offers various pieces of scripture for you to draw on when exploring what it means to be a disciple and to give one's life to Jesus. It is hoped that your young people can begin to see that helping others can bring *themselves* great joy, inner peace and love and that they may consider this as a way of life for themselves.



Reflections

For a short reflection:

This year (2020) on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul June 29: Pope Francis told the church:

"If you want a prophetic church, stay quiet and start serving ... We are not to become rich, but rather to love the poor ... We are not to save up for ourselves, but to spend ourselves for others."

Notice how Pope Francis is calling us to change ourselves, in order to change the church and the world. What do you recognise in yourself that needs change?
What do you think he means by 'love the poor'?

For a longer reflection:

A selection of Dorothy Day quotes:

'I am convinced that if we had an understanding and a love of poverty we would begin to be as free and joyous as St. Francis.'

'We usually get what we pray for, and maybe we are afraid to pray for it.'

'I really only love God as much as the person I love the least.'

Reflection

Remember Dorothy Day and The Catholic Worker movement from an earlier unit? Explore more about her here:

<https://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/articles/633.html>

How would you explain these quotes to someone else?
What do they mean to you?

and/or

Laudato Si' #159: Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realise that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others.

What responsibility do we have towards future generations?
How must we change for a sustainable future, not only in how we treat the environment but how we treat others?

Clip:

Why These Headhunters Converted to Christianity | National Geographic:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLs-UoqzLIU> (3:39 minutes).

Faith Sharing and Reflective Exercise

Lectio Divina

In small groups read an extract of scripture multiple times, pausing for silence and sharing.

1. **Head:** After the first reading of the passage (read aloud by one person), followed by a few minutes of silence, invite them to share something from the passage that stood out for them (maybe a few words or lines). This is not to begin a discussion, it is simply sharing one's own response to, and understanding of, the passage.
2. **Heart:** After a second reading, and a moment for silence, invite your young people to share what emotions this passage evoked for them and if, and how, it touched their hearts.
3. **Hands:** For the third reading, and in the silence, ask your young people to explore, and share if they wish, what action they are called to do because of reading this passage. What is their call? What has encouraged or inspired them? What gift does this passage lead them to ask from the Lord?

The prayer can be concluded with an Our Father.

Read more about this method of prayer here:

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-what-how-why-of-prayer/praying-with-scripture/>

Suggested scripture extracts:

Acts 9:1-31

Matthew 16:24-28

Mark: 12:38-44

John 12:24-26

Matthew 10:16-23

Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Luke 12:35-40

Discussion Questions: Ask your people-

What does 'helping others' mean to them?

Have they had any experience of volunteering or serving others?

How did it make them feel? What was it like?

Discuss practical steps they might take to make 'helping others' a reality.

How might we strengthen and support our local school, parish, community?

Delve deeper:

Do we have the courage to give our lives over to the Lord, committed to serving God and serving others?

Prayer

Intercessions (add your own...)

Lord, may our leaders make decisions that are for the benefit of the common good.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, open our eyes to help us see clearly what is happening to our world and give us the courage to reject the 'culture of consumerism' that has led to the devouring of the Earth's resources.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, though our current lifestyle may grant us luxuries, let us not forget at whose expense these luxuries come - of the poor, and of the Earth. May we work towards a more peaceful, joyful and sustainable world for all.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Further Resources

Change: A focus on food

Watch and discuss 'Inhabit: A Permaculture Perspective' <http://inhabitfilm.com/>

Questions to discuss:

What questions, or challenges, did the documentary raise about our current agricultural system?

Did this make you think about where the food you eat has come from? Discuss.

How might your local school, parish, or community implement a 'permaculture ethos' / grow your own food?