

UNIT 6:

Tent Door and Zipper.

My Desire: TRUE LOVE



12th Grade

Love is a path.

Each stage is important. There is no need to rush through them.

Dating: getting to know one another and getting to know true love together, preparing ourselves for marriage.

Love as a gift and response. Always seek the source of love.

5. Where is the Source of Love?

**“It is not you who chose me,
but I who chose you”**

Jn 15:16.



"Dama de la fuente". Ayto fontatoin by Logroño and bronze statue by Francisco López (1932).

Recognizing that human love is limited but, at the same time, also an expression of the Creating Love of God. God is, then, the source of LOVE.

This lesson concludes the whole itinerary that began with the question “Who am I?”, which is the basis of our answer to the final question: “Where should I pitch my tent? With whom?”.

But we still have one final step on our way: recognizing the limitation of human love, and recognizing the hope that this fragile love can be healed.

The objective of this lesson is to recognize the source of love.

ACTIVITIES 1- 2: Invite the youth to think of situations in their daily lives when they have experienced the limits and fragility of love, not just within themselves, but also in the love of others.

Do we receive what we give?

Do we receive what we hope to?

Do we know how to love the other in the way that they need to be loved?

Do I know how to love myself?

Many times our heart is wounded because it does not know how to love or it does not know how to feel that it is loved. This is a true drama and, many times, a very great suffering.

The good news is that this love can be rebuilt, strengthened, given new life, healed. The only thing needed is a desire to repair it. Present this idea to the youth using 3 very practical examples from their own lives:

- When “GAME OVER” appears on the screen, does that mean you can’t start playing again?
- When a car runs out of gas, does that mean you can’t drive it anymore?
- If you run out of phone credit, do you have to buy a new phone?
- If your computer or washing machine breaks, do you throw it away or do you call a repair technician?

ACTIVITY 3: From the previous activity, the following words stand out:

- *WE CAN ...AGAIN* *HOPE*
- *DECIDE...* *TO LOVE*
- *FILL ONCE AGAIN...* *TO PERSEVERE*
- *WE ASK FOR MORE...* *TO FEEL A NEED*
- *SPECIALIST TO HELP US...* *TO CURE*

Invite the youth to relate these words to love and to reflect on what position we can take when faced with fragile, limited love.

- Are we capable of filling our void?
- Do I feel that I am in need of something?
- Am I full?
- Can we cure our wounds by ourselves?

They will answer all of these questions throughout the following activities. The teacher will help the youth reach conclusions.

ACTIVITY 4: We suggest a reading from the Gospel of John which recounts the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar (Jn 4: 5-42). Invite the youth to see themselves as the protagonist of this story. It is Jesus who is speaking to them today. They are tired from the journey and go a little ways off to regain their strength and take some water from the well, and they meet Jesus.

After reading the gospel, ask the youth to find the symbolism of the following elements:

- THE WELL.
- THE WATER JAR.
- THE WATER.
- THE TIREDNESS OF JESUS.
- THE THIRST OF JESUS.
- THE THIRST OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, THE THIRST OF THE YOUTH.



Detail of the painting, "Jesus and the Samaritan Woman," Alonso Cano
Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando

Look in-depth at each one of the symbols and meditate on them. Share the following reflections in the form of a brainstorming session:

1. "Jesus tired from the journey"

I also feel tired. On the path of love I also experience this tiredness, my limited love becomes exhausted. Sometimes I cannot go any further and my strength fails me.

Today Jesus tells me that he is waiting for me at the well. He is in my tent. He wants to help me pitch my tent, to choose the best spot. And on this journey, He understands my fatigue, welcomes my weakness. He makes himself one with me.

2. The thirst of the Samaritan woman. My thirst.

I, just like the Samaritan woman, am burdened with my water jar, full of my things. I go alone, like the Samaritan woman, leaving my past behind. It is difficult for me to carry the things of the world; they burden me without satiating or filling me. And every afternoon I go to the well to regain my strength, because I look for my strength within myself.

3. "Give me something to drink"

This evening, I meet Jesus, a person of flesh, blood and spirit, like me. And he wants to encounter me. He speaks to me and asks me to give him everything that is burdening me. He asks me to hand over everything that does not truly satisfy me, everything that hurts me, that doesn't make me happy.

4. "If you knew the gift of God"

He speaks to me of a GIFT, a present that he wants to give me. He speaks to me of love. Do I want to receive this gift?

5. "Give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water"

Am I willing to drink this water that will satisfy my heart?
Who will give it to me? Do I want to choose this water for my life?

6. "The woman left her water jar"

Does my encounter with Jesus and everything that he says to me: how he knows me, how he understands me, change my life?

Do I, like the Samaritan woman, leave my water jar at the well?

I no longer need to draw water from the well!

I no longer need my hands to draw water, because I have found the LIVING WATER! I have found true love! The wellspring of love!

The first step is to recognize that I am weak and needy when it comes to love.

My need is to love and be loved.

The GIFT is LOVE.

To recognize the GIFT of GOD is to know that Someone loved me first, and this Someone is the inexhaustible source of love.

But I don't know God; who will show me the way? JESUS CHRIST is the GIFT of God for me. He is living and eternal LOVE, handed over for me. He is the one who approaches, hands himself over and lowers himself, in order to show me the true path of LOVE.

ACTIVITY 5: Using two songs of Sister Glenda, we want to deepen our understanding of love as the response to a first love and to recognize love as a GIFT.

If you only knew the love that God has for you, if you were to discover what He wants to give you...

*Si conocieras como te amo , si conocieras como te amo, dejarías de vivir, sin amor.
Si conocieras como te amo, si conocieras como te amo, dejarías de mendigar cualquier amor.
Si conocieras como te amo, como te amo, serías más feliz.*

*Si conocieras como te busco, si conocieras como te busco, dejarías que te alcanzara mi voz.
Si conocieras como te busco , si conocieras como te busco, dejarías que te hablara el corazón .
Si conocieras como te busco, como te busco, escucharías más mi voz.*

*Si conocieras como te sueño, me preguntaría lo que espero de ti,
si conocieras como te sueño, buscarías lo que he pensado para ti...*

Si conocieras como te sueño, como te sueño, pensarás más en mí.

Through the second song, we want to transmit the idea that not even the purest human love is capable of quenching the thirst for love within all of us. Only God is capable of satisfying this thirst. We respond to his love.

John didn't know what to give his girlfriend for her birthday. Finally, he decided to make her a heart with a hole in the middle out of a piece of cork.

"What does this mean?," the girl asked him. Looking at her with great tenderness, he replied:

"Rachel, you and I love each other a lot, but, in your heart and my heart there will always be a hole, an empty space, a loneliness, that only the Love of God can completely fill".

Thank you for satisfying my heart in Jesus!

Tú Señor, me has seducido y yo me dejé, me has forzado y has sido más fuerte, más fuerte que yo.

Pero ves Señor, ahora soy motivo de risa todo el día se burlan de mi porque yo, ¡me he enamorado de Ti!

¡Tú me has seducido Señor!, y yo me dejé seducir, me has forzado y has sido más fuerte que yo ahora soy sólo para Ti.

Ya ves Señor, tu palabra ha sido humillación y sacrificios, por eso, resolví no hablar más en Tu Nombre ni volverte a mencionar, pero había en mí como un fuego ardiente en mi corazón, prendido a mis entrañas y aunque ahogarlo yo quería no podía contenerlo.

¡Tú me has fascinado Jesús! y yo me dejé enamorar he luchado contra ti, contra todo lo que siento!

*¡Pero has vencido Tú!,
¡Pero, has vencido Tú!, ¡Tú!*

The itinerary concludes by passing on to the youth the responsibility of recognizing love as a GIFT, as a path and as a RESPONSE.

The response is a common call that we all share, a vocation common to all human beings: the vocation to love. And this vocation concretely takes shape in two ways:

- In marriage, as the summit of the path of courtship.
- In the priesthood and consecrated life, handing over one's life in body and soul to the Lord, at the service of love.

For this reason, the vocation to love is a PERSONAL response.



Having recognized love as a gift, the response to this call arises.

Truly, love is the response to a FIRST LOVE, a call that we all have, a vocation to love.

But love bears the name of a PERSON. We don't love in general; rather, love becomes concrete:

In the love that Peter and Kate have for each other.

In the love between Michael and Lucy.

In Sister Mary of the Child Jesus.

In Mother Mary Cecelia.

In Sister Elizabeth.

In Brother Gregory.

In Father Mark.

In the priest Abraham.

In St. John Paul II and in St. John XXIII.

This vocation to love can be made concrete in marriage and in the priesthood or consecrated life.

What is my answer?

To whom do I want to open the door of my tent?

TIMING AND MATERIALS

This lesson is designed for students in the 12th grade.

ACTIVITY	TIME (minutes)	MATERIALS
Introduction.	5	
Activities 1 and 2: Personal reflection.	10	Worksheet.
Activ. 3: Personal reflection and concept association.	5	Worksheet.
Activ. 4: Personal reflection and sharing.	20	Bible and worksheet.
Activ. 5: Personal reflection.	15	Sister Glenda's songs and music player.
Conclusions.	5	