

Youth Group Small Group Ministry (October 19, 2014)

Topic: Star Trek, Hope, and Imagination

Advisor: David Gonzalez Rice

Mentor: Gretchen Edstrom

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting

“*Star Trek* was an attempt to say that humanity will reach maturity and wisdom on the day that it begins not just to tolerate, but take a special delight in differences in ideas and differences in life forms. [...] If we cannot learn to actually enjoy those small differences ... here on this planet, then we do not deserve to go out into space and meet the diversity that is almost certainly out there.”

— Gene Roddenberry, creator of *Star Trek*

Purpose: We come together to build connections and to talk about what deeply matters.

Reading of Group Covenant

(Read the covenant which is from last year and then decide if group wants to change it or add anything to it. Group can also decide to come up with a new word they say this year when they feel the covenant is being broken.)

Golden rule: Treat others how you want to be treated

Respect each other

No side talking

No phones except for time check

Don't take someone else's seat if they called 5's

Get outside together

When someone is breaking the Covenant, we'll say "Dharma."

Check-In

FOCUS: “*Star Trek* speaks to some basic human needs: that there is a tomorrow — it's not all going to be over with a big flash and a bomb; that the human race is improving; that we have things to be proud of as humans. No, ancient (alien) astronauts did not build the pyramids — *human beings* built them, because they're clever and they work hard. And *Star Trek* is about *those* things.” - Gene Roddenberry

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; if time remains, general response and conversation are welcome.

Questions for reflection:

- 1.) Given recent current events such as recent police shootings, unrest in Syria/Iraq and Israel/Palestine, how do you feel about the state of the world? What do you think of Gene Roddenberry's optimism about the future?
- 2.) Have you watched *Star Trek*? If so, what *Star Trek* character do you most identify with?
- 3.) (Besides the pyramids and other large-scale construction projects), what can we be proud of *as humans*?
- 4.) The half-alien Spock; the android Data; the shape-shifter Odo; the holographic Doctor; the dog Porthos. Why do you think the shows' creators put characters like these in each version of *Star Trek*?

CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK: Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like held confidential? Otherwise, this is a reminder that we treat each other's sharing with kindness and respect.

CLOSING WORDS: “... to boldly go where no one has gone before!”

— Star Trek opening sequence