

Resources from YCW & Impact

What is YCW & Impact?

The Young Christian Workers (YCW) is an international organisation for young people, run by young people, founded by Fr Joseph Cardijn in Belgium in 1924. It exists in over 60 countries and is in contact with more than one million young people.

YCW calls young people (aged 16-30) out of their isolation into groups where they come to know their true worth and dignity. It recognises that young people are the experts of their own reality and are often the best-placed people to be the means of transformation in their own lives. Through a process of enquiry, reflection and action (See, Judge, Act, Review) they grow as leaders, serving, educating and representing other young people. Impact is a project of YCW, using the same method of formation, for 13-17 year olds.

How the YCW works

YCW & Impact exist to transform life, especially the difficult situations and issues of concern with which young people contend. The method starts from daily life, and as such, a group does not need any specific resources to begin. However, the material provided here will assist your group to develop in confidence to See, Judge and Act.

See, Judge, Act

See, Judge, Act, (often referred to as the 'Review of Life'), helps a group to see what is happening to them, to reflect on these events and circumstances in the light of their faith, to ask what is good or bad about this situation, and to move towards an active response. The task of the chaplain or supporting adult (called adult companion) is to encourage the young people to share and reflect together in a safe, secure environment. It is NOT to lead the group, but to walk alongside them.

The simplest See, Judge, Act asks basic questions:

- What is happening?
- What do we think about it? What are we called to do?
- What can we do about it?

Resources for National Youth Sunday

YCW have provided these resources for National Youth Sunday and beyond – to help young people consider for themselves how they can live sustainably with their environment.

Environment Resources

- **YCW Resource (for young adults)** - including 3 video clips.
- **Impact Resource (for teenagers)** - these groups may want to use the video clips, adapting the other material.

“Going further” resource:

- **Aspire to be more** - As session, using a PowerPoint presentation, to use in groups to help you understand see-judge-act and the difference young people can make. It can be used by young people, but it is also suitable to use as a group of adult companions.

Other resources available from YCW & Impact:

Impact Pack – The Impact resources follow the YCW's unique method of see-judge-act. They are structured to encourage teenagers to look at their reality; to see what actually happens; to judge it in the light of faith and to act to transform it. The material includes magazine style leader guides (for the young people), a DVD containing clips for the weekly meetings and a comprehensive adult guide.

A Challenge to Lead - YCW start up pack – Everything you need to start a YCW group for young adults. The pack includes a guide for the Chaplain/adult companion and a leader guide for the young people. A DVD includes discussion starter clips and scripture reflections to enable you to reflect on twelve different topics relevant to young adult's lives.

Take Out- Packed in a pizza box this provides everything you need to 'take out' an action and transform your local community. The resources includes a training DVD and material for a group of young people to plan a project using see-judge-act.

Please contact YCW for details of our resources, training and support, and information of how to register with us.

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A Guide for the Chaplain/Adult Companion

As a Chaplain or an adult companion working with young people you are called to walk with the group members on their path to a new way of living as leaders and believers. You will travel with them in their discovery of themselves and of God.

What does this require during a meeting?

(Prepare beforehand with the young person leading the enquiry.)

During the SEE:

- listen carefully and make your own notes
- ask questions to make things clearer
- encourage young people to express themselves
- ensure everyone feels able to take part

During the JUDGE:

- support the group to examine what they think about the situation
- allow them to be challenged and enriched by the Word of God
- put the chosen scripture passage in context, if necessary
- help the group respect each other

During the ACT:

- help the group move to action
- prompt them to keep a link with the situations described in the SEE
- help them to be realistic
- help them to identify others who can help
- support them in living out the action after the meeting

During the REVIEW (after the action):

- help them to understand the importance of their action and its Christian meaning
- gently prompt those who did not get around to completing the action
- ask about their situations outside the meeting

Using the Environment Enquiry Sheets

The YCW and Impact enquiry sheets on the environment are designed to help young people look into issues that affect them, judge them in light of their faith and take action to make a real difference. The YCW sheet is designed for groups of young adults aged 16-30, and the Impact sheet is aimed at teenagers aged 13-17. The sheets are divided into three sections:

See: This section has questions and activities that are designed to help you discover the issues that are facing young people on this topic. The YCW sheet contains reference to two video clips. These clips show young adults discussing the issues and can provide a starting point for your own discussions.

The sheets both go on to give some suggested activities and really begin to look into the causes and consequences to help you identify the key issue.

Judge: This first of all asks for the opinions of the young person, what do they really feel about it? Then it gives a passage of scripture that is relevant to the issue of the environment. On the video you will find the passage presented in such a way as to make it clear and help to start discussion. The judge section contains questions for reflection to help you discover what God is calling us to do about the issue of the environment. (Teenage groups can choose to use the video clip if they wish).

Act: Now it's time to do something to make a real difference, and it's up to the young people to decide what they are going to do. On the Impact enquiry sheet you will find some actions you could use to help get you started under headings of 'help', 'tell it' and 'stand up for'.

The YCW enquiry sheet it gives an example of an action a group of young adults have taken on the issue of the environment. The young people have to decide what they will do. There are 3 kinds of actions that they could take:

1. **Serve;** help other people;
2. **Education;** informing people on the issue
3. **Represent;** standing up for those without a voice.