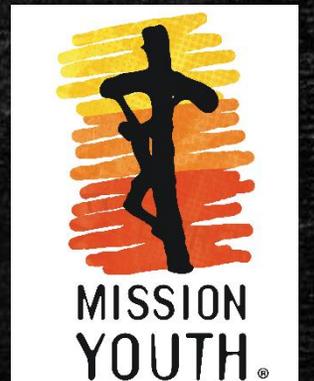


# Formative Experiences

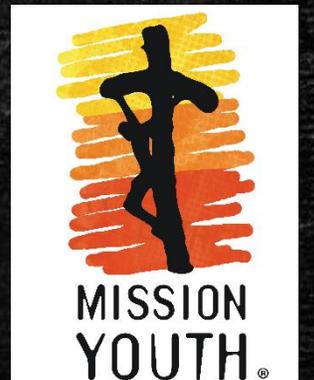
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# Biblical Experiences

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- All Salvation History is a Formative Experience!
- 40 years in the desert
- Prodigal Son
- Jesus Sleeping in the boat
- Multiplication of the loaves & fishes
- Transfiguration
- Crucifixion



# Pope Francis

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144. While drawn towards the future and its promise, young people also have a powerful desire to experience the present moment, to make the most of the opportunities life offers. Our world is filled with beauty! How can we look down upon God's many gifts?

145. Contrary to what many people think, the Lord does not want to stifle these desires for a fulfilling life. We do well to remember the words of an Old Testament sage: "My child, treat yourself well, according to your means, and present your offerings to the Lord; do not deprive yourself of a day's enjoyment, do not let your share of desired good pass by" (Sir 14:11.14). The true God, who loves you, wants you to be happy. For this reason, the Bible also contains this piece of advice to young people: "Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth... banish anxiety from your mind" (Ec 11:9-10). For God "richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6:17).

# Pope Francis

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147. Clearly, God's word asks you to enjoy the present, not simply to prepare for the future: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own; today's trouble is enough for today" (Mt 6:34). But this is not the same as embarking irresponsibly on a life of dissipation that can only leave us empty and perpetually dissatisfied. Rather, it is about living the present to the full, spending our energies on good things, cultivating fraternity, following Jesus and making the most of life's little joys as gifts of God's love.

148. Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, when imprisoned in a concentration camp, refused to do nothing but await the day when he would be set free. He chose "to live the present moment, filling it to the brim with love". He decided: "I will seize the occasions that present themselves every day; I will accomplish ordinary actions in an extraordinary way".

# Pope Francis

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149. This can also be applied to times of difficulty, that have to be fully experienced if we are to learn the message they can teach us. In the words of the Swiss Bishops: "God is there where we thought he had abandoned us and there was no further hope of salvation. It is a paradox, but for many Christians, suffering and darkness have become... places of encounter with God". The desire to live fully and experience new things is also felt by many young people with physical, mental and sensory disabilities. Even though they may not always be able to have the same experiences as others, they possess amazing resources and abilities that are often far above average. The Lord Jesus grants them other gifts, which the community is called to recognize and appreciate, so that they can discover his plan of love for each of them.

# Experiences: Intentional Encounters

*Mentors intentionally choose what type of encounters & guide young people through them*

- God
- Team
- Peer
- Those in Need
- Self

# Formation in ECYD

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25:

§1. The aim of Christian formation is to be conformed to the image of Christ (Cf. Romans 8:29).<sup>9</sup> In ECYD, formation is understood as a path of encounters which bring adolescents to know, accept and master themselves; to discover in Christ the full meaning of their lives, and to develop their leadership as apostles.<sup>10</sup>

§2. This formation takes into account all the dimensions of the person, the specific needs of adolescents, the context in which they live, the truths of the faith and ECYD spirit.

# Formation in ECYD

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26:

1° Regular meetings: these are foundational to ECYD's everyday life and are designed to promote formation, apostolic action and greater identification with the spirituality of ECYD.

2° Retreats: these are places to learn to pray, moments that favor encounter with God and personal spiritual growth.

3° Courses, camps or conventions: these extended activities help the ECYD Adolescent to go deeper in formation and apostolate, favoring integration within ECYD and allowing adolescents from different cities and countries to meet each other..

# Exercise

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- Divide large group into two
- Half are travelers and half are guides
- Travelers are blindfolded and given a guide, whose voice they must listen to in order to make it to their goal
- Distractors (5-6 people) may do anything (except touch) to the travelers to keep them from listening to the guide's voice

