

“Free to love!”

Hello purity



Aim

To encourage the inner search for positive values (purity, love and respect) that can guide the youth in their daily choices.

To be aware that one can express his/her opinion in an open and consistent way, by explaining one's motivations.

Where we left off...

In the previous meeting, we were committed to fight lust by wearing our “eyeglasses of respect and love”. We also colored our eyeglasses based on our experiences. Let us try to share how it went.

- What is the color of our eyeglasses now? Do we like them as they are now?
- Did we ever go “against the current” with our friends in the use of words, images, or video that do not respect the person and the body?
- Do we remember a significant experience? What was easiest and what most difficult?
- Is there something we can suggest to others?
- Is there something about which we would like to ask help or advice from others?



A clear and sharp look

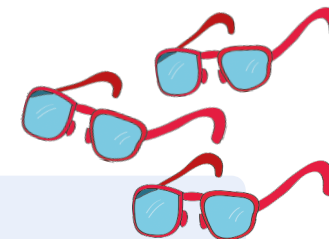
AIM: To eliminate all the players of the opposite team.

PLACE: better outdoors

PLAYERS: 6/7 divided into 2 teams

MATERIALS: A bandage to put on the forehead of each player. You can make it using an elastic band attached to a small card size 8x15 cm. For the players of team “lust”, write a number with five digits that is different for each player. For the players of team “purity”, make a drawing of eyeglasses.

TIME: around an hour.



PROCEDURE: Hide the bandages with the eyeglasses of purity in a place within the game area. The team of the virtue, staying together as a group, search for the eyeglasses. Meanwhile, the players of the team of the vice will hide in different places. When the team of the virtue finds the eyeglasses, they will put them on and will catch the players of the opposite team. To catch a player, they must read the number written on his/her forehead. If the number is read correctly, that player joins the team of the virtue. Watch out: If the players of the vice are able to get near the others without letting them read their numbers, they can remove the eyeglasses from a player of the team virtue, and this player then joins the team of the vice.

We live this way

I was invited to Matthew's birthday party together with other friends. We decided to give him a game for his play station. We all agreed on what to buy when I discovered that it was prohibited for minors. What could I do? I was not sure anymore if it would be the right gift, and so I told Luke, who had suggested it. He was the oldest in the group and, without bothering very much, he confirmed the choice and it seemed as though everyone else agreed.

That night, I talked about it at home, and

my father helped me to see 4 valid reasons for not buying that game: First, my own perplexity; Second the fact that it was against the law; Third, the damage it could cause even unconsciously; fourth, Matthew's parents might not like it. So, at once, I called up my other friends and found out that most of them shared my opinion.

The next day, I raised the problem again; at that point even those who wanted to buy that game or were indifferent, including Luke, allowed us to buy another game.



At the store, I noticed that the forbidden game was not even available. It seemed like Jesus' answer, that even if I had not done all my part, He tries to protect us in every way.

That night at the birthday party, when Matthew opened our gift, he was really happy: "It's the game I really wanted. Thank you!" For me, it was a fantastic evening!

V. [Italy]



We live this way

Up to sometime ago, I did not live purity with much conviction. I was torn between the desire to follow the Gospel right to the end also in this aspect, and the fear of being isolated from my friends once I told them my opinion.

In school, beside the blackboard, we have two panels: one to post notices; and another, to put whatever we like. So the second panel has pictures

of politicians, with related satire, football players, etc. One day, some of my classmates had cut out a pornographic picture from a magazine, and they wanted to put it there with the rest on the same panel. This really troubled me because in that moment I really had to decide if I wanted to live completely as a Gen by opposing it, or to keep my friends by allowing them to influence me*.

***NOTE:** You may interrupt the experience at this point and suggest doing a role-play. In your opinion, how did P. behave with his classmates? Try to act out what he did and told his classmates and their reaction.

After this exercise, you can read the rest of the experience emphasizing how P. was able to express his opinion courageously but in an open way, without breaking his relationship with his classmates:

I understood that I had to express my opinion clearly without fear. So I went to my classmates and I asked them to remove the picture because I did not like it.

Some asked me why I did not want them to pin it up, while others, without even listening to me, began to laugh at once, and you can just imagine what else they told me. To those who wanted to know the reasons for my opinion that was so against the current, I explained that we must respect our body and not exploit it. The discussion went on for a while, but in the end, they took the picture off.

It is not always easy to live purity, but now I am happy to do it. From that day on, I understood that I must go ahead without fear.

P. [Italy]

PURITY

Mary couldn't have within her even the least bit of old self. The mother had to be worthy of her son. This is the reason why God, who is Love, wanted her to be without even a shadow of sin and without any desire for evil things. Her soul and her body desired only heaven and the good things of this earth. This is why Mary was born immaculate, which means without a stain.

Mary is the leader of the Gen because she is all-pure. In her, purity shines out. Her eyes are not darkened by evil desires but they always look at God. This is why Mary can lead the Gen, who are here on earth in the midst of many temptations, always straight towards God.

Chiara

Chiara Lubich,
Gen 3 Congress, 1973, Rocca di Papa,
"NO TO VICES, YES TO VIRTUES"

1 Chiara Lubich is referring to the Catholic Church's dogma on the Immaculate Conception. In groups and contexts where people of other Christian traditions may be present, or of other religions, it is important for the group leader to prepare and convey this text, referring to Chiara's own experience of faith. This does not take away from the fact that Mary is an example for all Christians: through her life, the fact that she did the will of God, her "yes" which she said at the Annunciation, through which she gave Jesus to the world.

The video in Italian-English-Spanish and the international version of the powerpoint is available at the website
<http://assistentigen3.focolare.org>



You must always go against the current. Therefore, if in school they speak in one way, you should speak in another way, because if they say bad words, you must say good words. If the others, your classmates, watch the TV at home, including shows they are not allowed to watch, you do not do it because you want to follow Mary, who at the Annunciation was very beautiful, she was most pure.

This applies to many other things, for example, you must not look..., if there are magazines that are not good, you must not look at them, do not do it. Perhaps others tell many lies, do not do it because you are Gen, you belong to this new people... So, you must do all this to be pure.

Chiara

Chiara Lubich
To the gen 3. Loppiano, May 6, 1995



