

# Series: Real.Loud

## Session Title: Saturation

Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

### Materials Needed:

- ☐ Two hockey helmets with full face masks
- ☐ Two blindfolds
- ☐ One ball appropriate for playing dodgeball
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Copies of page A26
- ☐ Prizes
- ☐ Magazines (four per group)
- ☐ Scissors (three per group)
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Bristol board

### Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify the importance of close contact in being a guide and a light to the world.
- Wrestle through some of the guidelines regarding how present we ought to be in the world. When does presence become worldliness? When does holiness become isolation? Students will work through these issues in safe community.

### Pastoral Objectives:

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## Lead In:

There is a very fun way to introduce this session. It requires some advanced preparation and a healthy serving of common sense on your behalf. When the students arrive have a large space cleared of any obstructions such as chairs or musical instruments. Ask for two volunteers who are okay with the fact that they will likely be injured in the next ten minutes. At least two or three stupid boys are likely to volunteer frantically! (I can say that because I am one!) Provide each volunteer with a blindfold and a hockey helmet. They must be totally blind for this game to work. Insist on the helmet; they'll need it! Divide the rest of the students into two teams for a game of dodgeball. Put one blind helmeted volunteer on each team. Explain the scoring as follows:

- Team point scoring system in effect, i.e. people are not eliminated rather points are scored for each legal hit.
- Use one ball only (makes score keeping easier).
- Explain the boundaries.
- Only hits below the shoulders (or waist) are legal.
- The blindfolded hockey person is worth five points.
- If you hit someone in the head your team goes down by five points.
- A caught ball (on the fly) is worth five points.
- You can only hold onto a ball for five seconds. If you hold too long your team loses one point.
- No one can touch the blindfolded people. If you touch the blindfolded person your team loses one point.

Play for five minutes. The blindfolded people will be targets and will get hit a lot. The smart players will want to guide and protect them but will be frustrated by their inability to make contact with them to move them out of the way. It will be too loud to shout instructions from a distance.

After five minutes of play change the rules. Play the next five minutes without the rule about not touching the blindfolded people. They will now hide him/her and protect him/her from the missiles.

After a total of ten minutes of play tally the score and give prizes to the winners. Reassemble as a group.

Consider transitioning into the tasks by saying something like this:

*For the past few weeks we were talking about living a noteworthy life. We were really talking about how to be salty. But if you keep salt in a salt shaker right beside a nice steaming pile of French fries how much effect will the salt have on the taste of those fries? None. It has to be in close, direct contact with the food or it has no effect whatsoever. The Bible says that the same is true for Christians. We can be as holy and as knowledgeable and as different as you like but if we are not in close, direct contact with people we are not helping anyone.*

*In the game we just played there were people at risk. But for the first five minutes no one could really help them. It was too loud to shout instructions from a distance and if you got close you ended up knocking into them and losing points. As a result they got pummelled pretty hard. But once you could make actual contact with them they did a lot better. The same applies to our mission as priests to the world. We can shout instructions from a distance but that has almost no effect. We need to take people by the hand and be in direct contact with them to adequately function as guides and as light. We need to be present. Like salt, we must have total saturation or we will have no impact at all.*

*Tonight we are talking about saturation: being present so that we can be useful.*

## Task One Instructions:

Have the students split up into discussion groups of no less than six and no more than ten people. Provide each group with four to five magazines as well as scissors, markers and highlighters. Challenge them to go through the newspapers/magazines and clip or highlight places within our culture that need guidance and spiritual influence. Tell them to work in pairs and that each pair must produce pictures highlighting five areas where the kingdom message needs to be heard.

Leader Hint: Places like advertising, the music industry, sports, government, big business, relationships, and so on can be expected.

After the pairs have identified and cut out five things, tell the group to compile their answers and choose the ten most interesting or pressing answers. Tell the students to glue the top ten articles or photos onto the Bristol board that you will provide.

Now give feedback on task one. When every group is finished its collage, have them show their collages to the other groups, naming their top ten answers. Have the other groups listen and keep track of how many of their answers were duplicated and how many were unique.

## Task Two Instructions:

After the completion of task one provide each student with a copy of the handout and make sure everyone has a pen or pencil. Students will remain in their groups for this task. Tell the students to follow the task two instructions on the handout. The handout includes two verses that outline the tension between being in the world but not of the world and then guides them towards establishing some guidelines for themselves as saturation agents.

Give feedback on task two. Go through the ten statements and see if the whole group can agree on an answer. Because some are less clear than others, this should be a time of true discussion. Make sure that you foster safety for expressing honest opinions. Students should not feel

threatened to say what they really think. If you have time, ask the groups to share their concluding statement.

## Conclusion:

Consider wrapping up the evening by saying something like this:

*Just like in our game of dodgeball, our world is a pretty hazardous place. Our job is to bring the wisdom of the creator and the abundant life of the kingdom to those struggling to survive the missiles and projectiles life throws at all of us. To get it down we need to have direct contact with the people in harm's way. But how close is too close? When does mission become compromise? But if we back up a step, when does holiness become irrelevance? Those are tough questions and so we need to talk it through and make some guidelines that make sense. Hopefully you've had the chance to do that tonight, hopefully you are ready to be a hand's on guide to those in harm's way.*