

TOPIC: GANGS

OBJECTIVE: to help the students seek out people who will help them become the best they can be..

MATERIALS: blackboard and chalk

ACTIVITY: I. Write the word **GANG** on the black board. Have the students brainstorm ideas of what makes up a gang. Write these under the word **GANG**. From these ideas, have the students come up with a definition of a gang and write it on the board.

II. Using this definition, have the students identify groups in everyday life that might qualify as gangs. *EXAMPLE:* IBM, church groups, political parties, RELIG, etc. Write them on the board.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do these groups identify themselves (logos, clothing, etc.)?
2. How are they like street gangs?
3. How are they different?
4. Would you like to be part of these *gangs*? Why? Why not?

III. Read the class the following (or have a student read) Matthew 4:18-22

As he was walking by the Lake of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast into the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Come after me and I will make you fishers of people." And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brother, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father, mending their nets, and he called them. And at once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where Jesus and the 12 disciples a *gang*? Why? Why not?
2. How did this *gang* identify themselves?
3. How was Jesus' *gang* like today's street gangs? How was it different?
4. How did the disciples eat?
5. What about their families?
6. James and John left their father, would you leave your family to join a gang? To follow Jesus?
7. What is Jesus' *gang* today? (The Church)

GANGS *continued*

9. What is the initiation for this *gang*? (Baptism)
10. How do members of this *gang* identify themselves? (Wearing crosses, going to Mass, helping other people, etc.)
11. Do you feel welcome in this *gang*? Why? Why not?
12. How can the Church make you feel more a part of it?

TEACHER OPTION: You can end with a song like *They Know We Are Christians By Our Love*.