



## INTRO TO POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II


*"Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ."*

- John Paul II on the inauguration of his pontificate

### 45-MINUTE SESSION\* OBJECTIVES:

1. Summarize significant events in the life of Pope St. John Paul II.
  - a. This objective will provide context to the Theology of the Body. The more we understand the author, the more we understand his work.
2. Explain how the life experiences of Pope St. John Paul II relate to his passion for understanding the human person.
3. Identify ways God has prepared you to become a teacher.
4. Identify ways God has sustained you in your profession.

\*45, 60, and 90-minute session options are included. However, we recommend that groups attempt the 90-minute TOB Campus formation session when possible.

 45 MINUTE OPTION  INTRO TO POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II	5 MIN	10 MIN	30 MIN	
	OPENING PRAYER	INTRO TO ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II VIDEO	MY LIFEGRAPH ACTIVITY	OPTIONAL SCRIPTURE REFLECTION VIDEO
<b>MATERIALS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ONE ATTENDEE (45 min option) PRINTOUT GUIDE PER ATTENDEE</li><li>• WRITING UTENSILS</li><li>• INTRO TO POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II VIDEO &amp; SCRIPTURE REFLECTION VIDEO (optional)</li></ul>				

## PRAYER



### Pray together as a large group:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.<sup>1</sup>

### Spend 2 minutes in silent reflection. Ask God for eyes to see God's path for your life. Then close with a Hail Mary.

<sup>1</sup> "The Road Ahead" from THOUGHTS IN SOLITUDE by Thomas Merton. Copyright 1958 by the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani. Copyright renewed 1986 by the Trustees of the Thomas Merton Legacy Trust. Reprinted by permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, LLC.

## SESSION 1 VIDEO



**Watch the Intro to Pope St. John Paul II video together as a large group. This video is located in your TOB Campus membership area.**

## MY LIFEGRAPH ACTIVITY



- 1. Break into small groups of 3-5.**
- 2. Complete the MY LIFEGRAPH activity.**
- 3. Write your answers to the discussion questions.**
- 4. Share your answers with the small group.**

Turn to the MY LIFEGRAPH activity page. Take a moment to reflect on 3-5 significant moments from your life and then mark them on the timeline. The events can be from your birth up to the present day. Reflect on the impact these events have had on your life and your vocation as an educator.

After you have completed your MY LIFEGRAPH activity page, answer the following discussion questions with your small group.

NOTE: The events on your MY LIFEGRAPH page may be highly personal and include difficult past experiences. You are not required to share anything with your small group that makes you uncomfortable. Please be empathetic to the other members of your group as they share their life experiences.

### **MY LIFEGRAPH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. How was Karol Wojtyla prepared for his call to the papacy by his life experiences?**
- 2. Why did you become a teacher?**
- 3. In what way do each of the events on your MY LIFEGRAPH relate to your vocation as a teacher?**

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**



**Listen to the Scripture Reflection session 1 video guide.** This video guides attendees through the prayer.

**If you have time, take a few moments to share with the others in your group what aspect of this Scripture reflection moved or inspired you the most.**

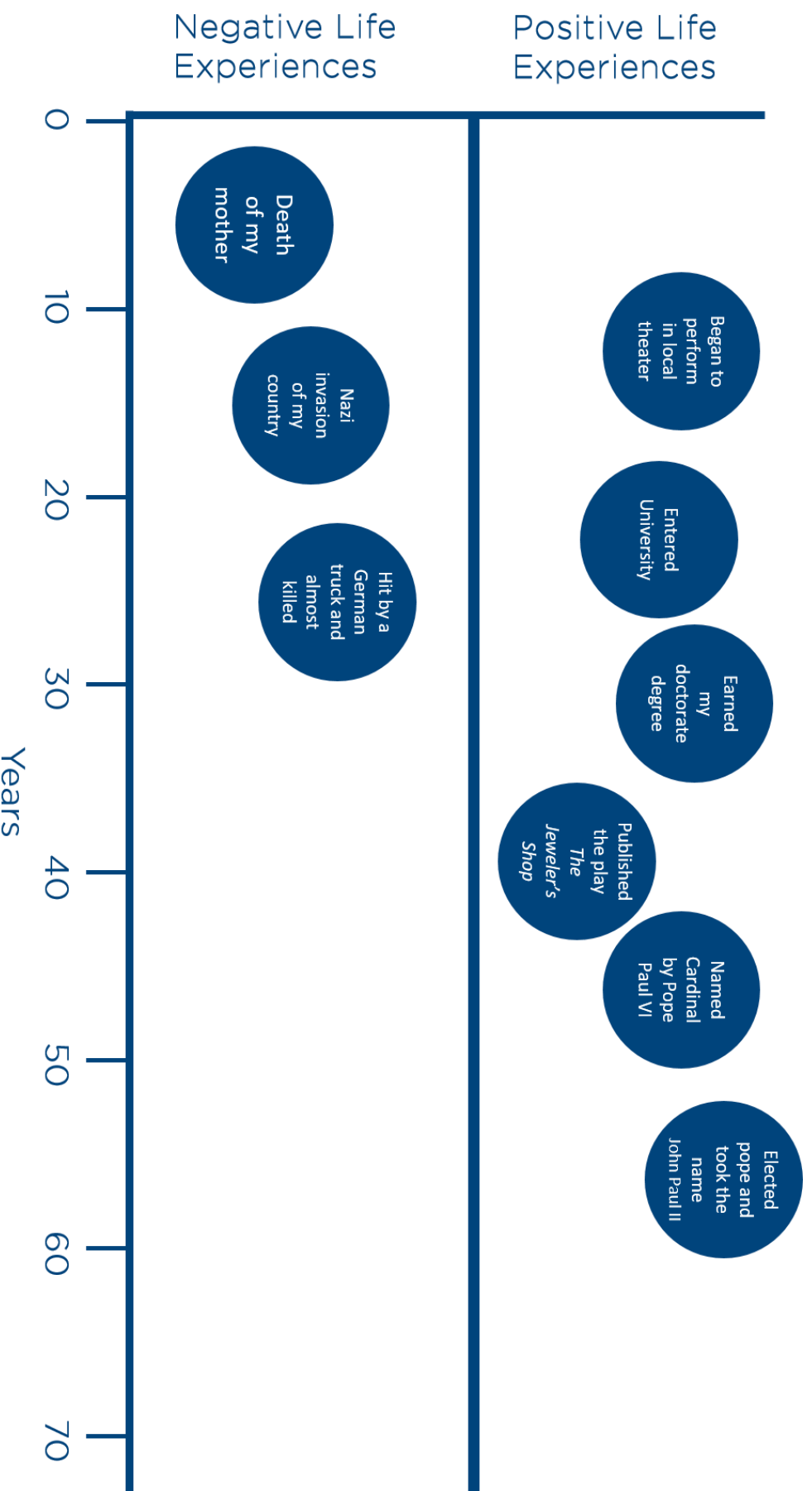
**Conclude with the following prayer:**

“Lord, it is easy for me to get distracted by the many attractive goods of this life. I ask you to convert my heart to value what brings lasting joy, the only reality that can satisfy my restless longings. Let me put my treasure in you and working alongside of you to build your Kingdom. Let me put my security and hope in your promise of enduring treasure that will outlive this world and be a source of everlasting happiness. Lord Jesus, I trust in you.”

## MY LIFEGRAPH ACTIVITY



**THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A COMPLETED LIFEGRAPH FROM POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II'S PERSPECTIVE. ATTENDEES WILL COMPLETE A LIFEGRAPH REFERENCING THEIR OWN LIFE EXPERIENCES.**



# INTRO TO POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

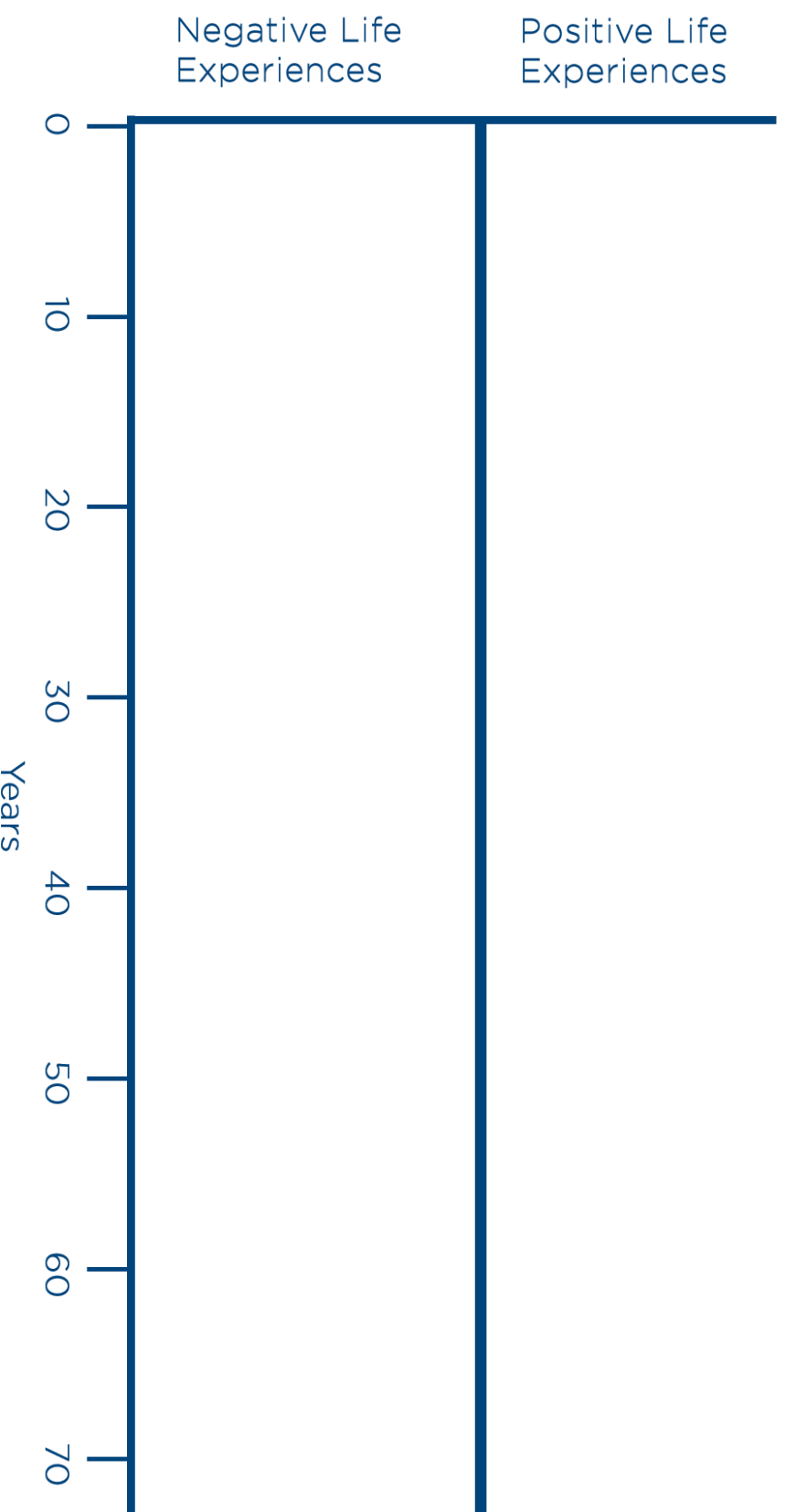
## MY LIFEGRAPH ACTIVITY



**DIRECTIONS:** Rather than looking at his call to the priesthood as a denial of his gifts of theater, academics and sports, Pope St. John Paul II viewed his past experiences as formation and preparation for the priesthood. His priesthood was a place where all of his gifts, talents and experiences would be laid at the service of Christ and His Church.

Take a moment to reflect on 3-5 significant experiences from your life and then mark them on the timeline. The events can be from your birth up to the present day. Reflect on the impact these events have had on your life and your call to serve Christ and His Church as an educator. After you have completed your MY LIFEGRAPH activity page, write your answers to the discussion questions and then share your answers with your small group.

NOTE: The events on your lifegraph may be highly personal and include difficult past experiences. You are not required to share anything with your small group that makes you uncomfortable. Please be empathetic to the other members of your group as they share their life experiences.



## MY LIFEGRAPH ACTIVITY

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete the MY LIFEGRAPH activity first. Then write your answers the questions on the lines below. If time allows, share your answers with your group.

### MY LIFEGRAPH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How was Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II) prepared for his call to the papacy by his life experiences?

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2. Why did you become a teacher instead of something else?

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3. In what way do some of the events on your MY LIFEGRAPH relate to your vocation as a teacher?

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