

PRE-EVENT DEVOTION

INTRO:

Discuss the term “fit the mold” with your youth/child.

Definition from Collins Dictionary: If a person fits into or is cast in a mold of a particular kind, they have the characteristics, attitudes, behavior, or lifestyle that are typical of that type of person.

Based on the definition above what type of person fits the “mold”

...of a baseball player?

... of a Teacher?

... of a Pastor?

... of a Sinner?

... of a Saint?

DEVOTION:

This year’s YOUTHX theme is **Sinner&Saint**. If you are a Christian, you fit the mold of both a Sinner and a Saint! You might have noticed that even though as Christians we are forgiven and set free by Jesus, we often fall right back into our habits as sinners. This is how the Apostle Paul describes it in Romans 7:18b-25a

For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it 21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

What part of the verse talks about the “mold” of being a Sinner?

What part of the verse talks about the “mold” of being a Saint?

Paul is talking about the daily battle of being a **saint** who has to face the reality of living in a sinful world and being a **sinner** as well. The truth is that we are a part of this

sinful reality, and even though we want to do the right thing, we often end up doing the things we know are wrong. Because of our original sin we have been molded into a sinner.

But Paul also talks about another work within our hearts - the work of the Holy Spirit who brought you into another reality through your faith in Jesus. Because of your faith, you have been molded into a saint, a person who is set apart, who is holy. In this reality, you are forgiven for your sins! And the Holy Spirit that you receive in baptism, is molding you every day to be more like Jesus - more like the saint than the sinner. Through Jesus, you are set free to engage in the battle of living every day more like a saint than a sinner.

DISCUSS:

- What does it mean to fit the mold of both a sinner and a saint?
- How does the sinner/saint paradox show up in people's everyday life?
- How does God mold us more into the image of Jesus?
- How can knowing that we are **sinners&saints** change our relationships and the way we act?
- Connecting back to the definition of "fitting the mold," what are some of the "characteristics, attitudes, behaviors, or lifestyle" of a sinner? of a saint?

