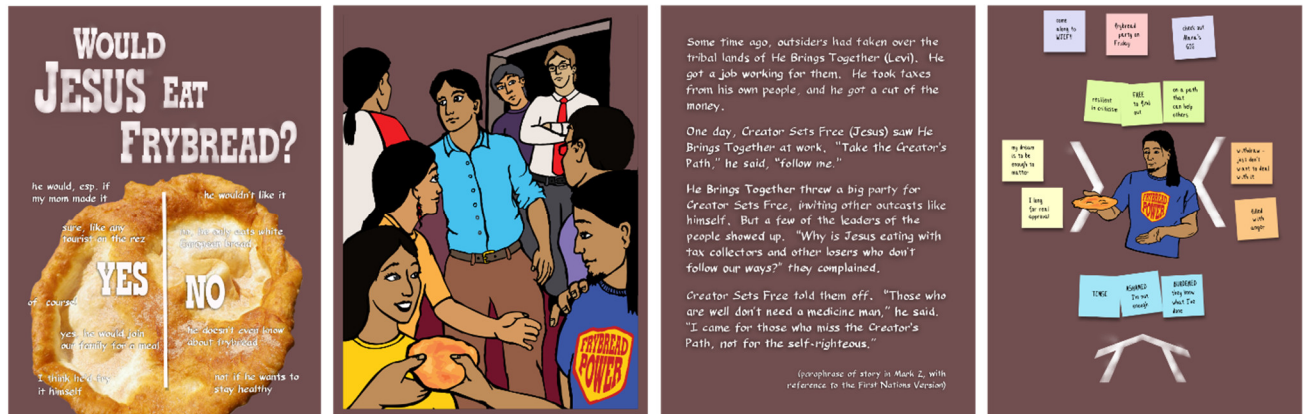


WJEF Proxe Leader's Guide (Gospel Improv Version)

About the Proxe

The WJEF proxe is designed to be (1) a recruitment tool for the WJEF conference and (2) a way to connect with Native students for evangelism or planting.



Panel 1. The question “would Jesus eat frybread?” has been used extensively in Native ministry as a non-threatening way to get into spiritual conversations. It almost always elicits a smile, getting behind some of the barriers that come between many Native people and Christianity or Jesus. Panel 1, therefore, our “conversation starter.”

Panels 2 & 3. We meet Jesus at Levi’s party in Mark chapter 2, having a good time and sharing some frybread. The tension in this proxe is captured in the moment the religious leaders show up at Levi’s party in the background of the picture, prompting the sincere question, “should Jesus be there?” The Pharisees express their disapproval as well as shaming the party-goers. Many people can relate to feeling shamed by White people, church people, or other Natives. How Jesus responds in this moment of tension reveals both his acceptance of the party-goers and his own authority as a spiritual leader. The implicit irony is that Jesus (who is so often depicted as White) is the one who identifies with and defends the Native party-goers.

The scripture passage is a paraphrase from the FNV. It attempts to add in enough background to contextualize the tensions in Levi’s job (Native people who have worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, for example, might be seen like the tax-collectors in Jesus’s day – as traitors of sorts).

Asking “should Jesus be there?” has another layer of meaning, a cultural layer. Many Native people have been given the message that saying “yes” to Jesus means saying “no” to our culture (is church culture White? is White culture better?). It is significant that Jesus identifies with us, enters in to our culture, and is even the one who ultimately provides our culture as a gift.

Preparation

Your preparation, especially “filling in” Panel 4, is the key part of this proxe. Please do this together with the team that will be running the proxe.

1. Study and Discuss:
 - a. Briefly talk over how you would vote on panel 1 and why.
 - b. Talk about your own experience relating to this proxe passage
 - i. What is it like for you to be in a situation like this *without* Jesus?
 - ii. What longing for Creator or his ways does this passage stir up for you?
 - iii. What holds you back from that longing?
 - iv. What is it like for you to be in a situation like this *with* Jesus? (how does Jesus help you?)
2. Using *Proxe Station Prep with Gospel Improv* to guide you, write out a brief testimony along with four post-it notes with a word or phrase that captures your experience. See the “example testimonies” section below for examples. Put the post-it notes on the fourth panel. End your testimony with a general statement about Jesus. For this proxe, you could say “That’s how Jesus is Creator Sets Free for us all. His medicine is to come alongside us with his love and power to help us. He invites us to take his Path with him.”
3. Practice. Run through the script below. Share your testimonies with each other, referring only to your post-it notes.
4. Fill in some “follow-up” post-it notes (try for 3 to 5). These are possible “next steps” for a proxe participant. They may be chapter events of various kinds, such as a frybread party, going to WJEF, a post-proxe GIG, etc. Some should be easy, others more “intense.” Put these across the top of panel 4, moving left to right “easy” to “intense.” Be ready for these opportunities:
 - a. to *bless* in a practical ways that come up, such as help finding a ride
 - b. to *invite* (to things you’ve listed on your post-its or to more one-to-one talking)
 - c. to *pray* for a need, such as healing
 - d. to *guide*, in case the participant would like to pray to respond to Jesus
5. Plan out your proxe logistics, such as who and when you are setting up and tearing down, how you will collect contact information, etc.. If you are dividing up roles during the proxe (some people to pray, some to gather, some to guide participants through the proxe), plan that out now, too.

Script

Gospel Improv overview:

Encounter Jesus together with someone through conversation and scripture:

- (panel 1) *initiate a conversation;*
- (panels 2 & 3) *tell a story about Jesus – debrief with the participant’s experience and what they see in Jesus;*
- (panel 4), *transition from your story to their story;*
- *invite to a next step.*

Introduction

Ask: *What do you think? Would Jesus eat frybread? or Would you like to vote about Jesus and frybread?*

Say: *We're with Native InterVarsity/Cru Nations and we're talking with people about how something like frybread can be spiritually important. Would you like to participate?*

Panel 1

Say: *Take a sticker and vote.*

Ask: *Why did you pick that? and Who makes the best frybread in your family? (or if negative) Do you think he could be won over?*

Share: *(something like) In my family...*

Panels 2 & 3

Say: *Here is a story that helps answer the question. It's from the Bible. In Jesus' tribe, people used names more like Native people do. Jesus' actual name means 'Creator Sets Free.'"*

Read the story

Ask: *What would it be like for you to be at this party? or Can you relate to a situation of public shaming?*

Ask: *What are your thoughts or reactions about how Jesus handles the situation?*

Panel 4

Say: *Jesus is intentional about his actions towards others because as his name suggests, he came to free us.*

Ask: *Can I share part of my story?*

Share your prepared testimony in the gospel improv format (describe your tension, share a longing you have, share something that holds you back, and describe how Jesus provides for you). See the examples in the "example testimonies" section.

Say: *That's how Jesus is Creator Sets Free for us all. His medicine is to come alongside us with his love and power. He invites us to take his Path with him.*

Ask:

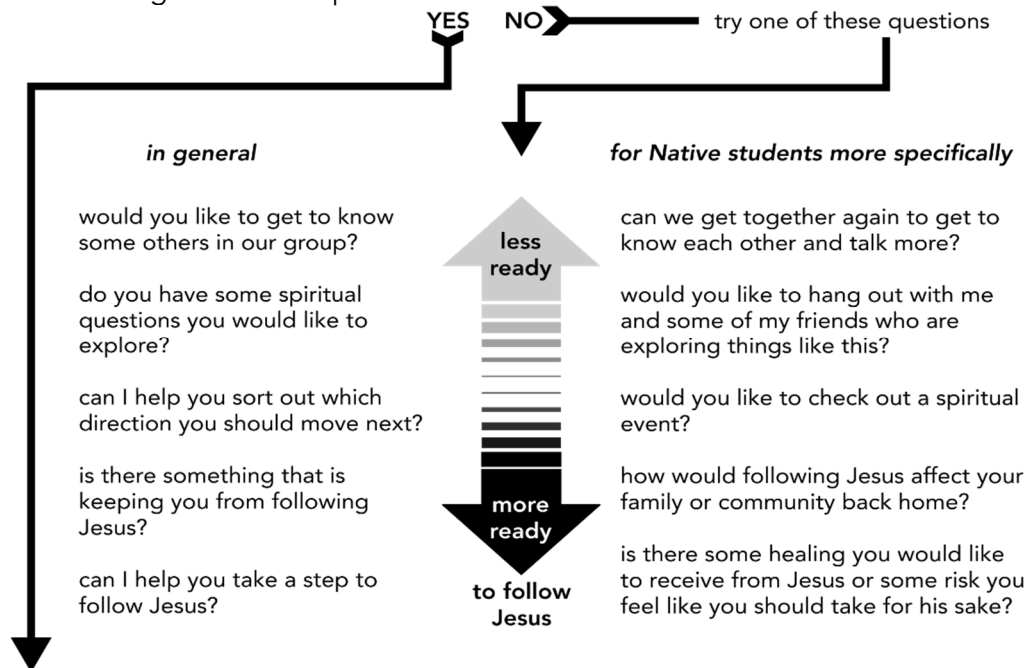
How about you? Do you think Jesus has some medicine to help you on Creator's Path? (or, more leading)

If you were to meet Jesus at a party, is there something you might want to receive from him or something you want to say to him?

then possibly

Why?

Discern can you think of a good next step?



Pick a next step based on the conversation.

- *bless* in a practical way that has come up, such as help finding a ride
- *invite* (to things you've listed on your post-its or to more one-to-one talking)
- *pray* for a need, such as healing
- *guide*, in case the participant would like to pray to respond to Jesus

Say: Would you fill out a contact card for us? You could just check "don't want to be contacted" if you aren't interested.

Say: *Thank you for participating in our display!*

Example Testimonies

I long to CONNECT with God

CONFIDENT
I have something to offer

withdraw when I don't measure up

Feeling tense in social situations is not an unusual thing for me, esp. if I'm not sure if I'm wanted! If a spiritual leader is around, part of my really longs for ways to connect with the leader and with Creator. But I've also noticed that I tend to psych myself out – I withdraw when I'm not sure I measure up. That's why being with Jesus is so important to me. When I'm with him, I always belong and always have something to offer.

That's how Jesus is Creator Sets Free for us all. His medicine is to come alongside us with his love and power. He invites us to take his Path with him.

TENSE

