



Finale: **Rite of Passage**

Video: "Music: African Influence"

Video: Joseph Campbell "Hero's Journey"
(in *Power of Myth* video series)

Finish all Projects
Seal Time Capsules
Other elements of Group Rite of Passage

Weekend event: all afternoon/eve or Sleep-Over

Objectives:

1. To satisfactorily **wrap up the curriculum** in substance and emotional content.
2. To enhance opportunities for **group bonding** (and possibly for oldest middle schoolers to feel welcomed into the Youth Group for the following year).
3. To serve as a **Rite of Passage** out of childhood and into adolescence.
4. To be a **fun** and significantly **memorable** experience.
5. To **conclude all 3 projects:** Time Capsule, Circle of Life Recycling, and Memory Pouch.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES **(to be jointly developed with the students)**

DVD Watching:

- Watch the entire *Lion King* movie straight through.
- Watch some or all of the short background videos on Disk 2 of *The Lion King Platinum edition*
- Watch the *The Lion King 2* movie

- Watch "The Hero's Journey" (Episode 1) of the 1988 six-part PBS television special, *Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth* (by Bill Moyers). See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Power_of_Myth
- Watch some or all of the You-Tube videos that were already used throughout the curriculum, plus the one that has not yet been watched:

5-minute You-Tube clip of the stage performance of the Lion King cast singing the song "Circle of Life". This can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXSyJ4CeUXo&feature=related>

The You-Tube title is "Lion King in London @ The BBC"

Interactivity:

- Group "Show and Tell" with each student saying something about what they put in their TIME CAPSULE and MEMORY POUCH.
- Group sharing, with each student choosing to read or talk about one thing they wrote or drew in their JOURNAL.
- Ritualize the SEALING OF THE TIME CAPSULES (and have students each determine whether they or a trusted adult will be responsible for its storage)
- Complete the "Circle of Life" recycling project by clumping all the recyclable objects that the students bring to church, and determine how they will be given to those who can use them.
- Group singing/dancing: Pull out all the SONG LYRICS distributed during the course: "Circle of Life," "He Lives in You," "Hakuna Matata," "Shadowland," "Endless Night." Cue up each song on the Audio CD or in the relevant YouTube video clip, for the students to sing along with.
- **RITE OF PASSAGE** in addition to the Time Capsule Sealing. One possibility is to have each youth pass through a doorway one at a time. The group as a whole is inside a room, facing a doorway. One at a time, each steps out into the hall, while a drumbeat and chanting begins:

"Re-MEM-ber, re-MEM-ber , re-MEM-ber WHO YOU ARE!"

The group chants this 3 times. Then just the drum plays, faster and faster, and finally the person out in the hall walks or runs into the

room. Hoorays and clapping by all! And then a new chant is repeated 3 times, as the initiate walks or runs through the group. Again with a drumbeat, using the youth's name to begin, as in:

"PAUL is on a JOUR-ney in the CIR-CLE . . . of LIFE."

or

"Na-TA-sha's on a JOUR-ney in the CIR-CLE . . . of LIFE."

- Possibly give each youth their own copy of *Nature and the Human Soul*, the book by Bill Plotkin from which the Grab-bag Readings were taken and that has the Human Circle of Life Diagram in it.
- SECRET: See if the Youth Group wants to surprise the older middle schoolers at this Finale by crashing the party (while dressed like Rafiki) and stealing the older students, then welcoming them to join the Youth Group the following year.

Long Term Supplemental Activity:

- See if *The Lion King* traveling stage production will be coming to a city near you by going to:
<http://www.primeseattickets.com/buytickets/theatre/thelionking.php>
(If it is, find a way to generate \$ to pay for tickets and travel.)

FOR FINAL SESSION:

Choose something you wrote or drew in your journal to share with the group. If a writing, you can either read it or talk about it. If a drawing, show it and talk about what it means to you.

Neil deGrasse Tyson – The Best Sermon Ever

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ai-VvboPnA>