

EUUC SESSION PLAN **WOMEN AND GENDER ROLES**

CHALICE LIGHTING

GATHERING SILENCE: 1-3 MINUTES

OPENING WORDS:

These are the lyrics to a Dar Williams song that should preferably be played at this meeting.

When I Was a Boy

I won't forget when Peter Pan came to my house, took my hand
I said I was a boy; I'm glad he didn't check.
I learned to fly, I learned to fight
I lived a whole life in one night
We saved each other's lives out on the pirate's deck.
And I remember that night
When I'm leaving a late night with some friends
And I hear somebody tell me it's not safe, someone should help me
I need to find a nice man to walk me home.
When I was a boy, I scared the pants off of my mom,
Climbed what I could climb upon
And I don't know how I survived,
I guess I knew the tricks that all boys knew.
And you can walk me home, but I was a boy, too.

I was a kid that you would like, just a small boy on her bike
Riding topless, yeah, I never cared who saw.
My neighbor come outside to say, "Get your shirt,"
I said "No way, it's the last time I'm not breaking any law."
And now I'm in a clothing store, and the sign says less is more
More that's tight means more to see, more for them, not more for me
That can't help me climb a tree in ten seconds flat

When I was a boy, see that picture? That was me
Grass-stained shirt and dusty knees
And I know things have gotta change,
They got pills to sell, they've got implants to put in, they've got implants to remove
But I am not forgetting that I was a boy too

And like the woods where I would creep, it's a secret I can keep
Except when I'm tired, except when I'm being caught off guard
I've had a lonesome, awful day, the conversation finds its way
To catching fire-flies out in the backyard.
And I tell the man I'm with about the other life I lived
And I say now you're top gun, I have lost and you have won
And he says, "Oh no, no, can't you see
When I was a girl, my mom and I we always talked
And I picked flowers everywhere that I walked.
And I could always cry, now even when I'm alone I seldom do
And I have lost some kindness
But I was a girl too.
And you were just like me, and I was just like you

CHECK IN (40 MINUTES)

FOCUS (60 MINUTES)

- Do you remember a time as a child when you realized the limitations placed on you because of your gender? How did it feel?
- How does society limit us as women? As men? Do you think men or women lose more because of these limitations? How does society lose?
- In the song, the singer attributes some of what she is facing to commercialism--the need to sell something. Do you think this is a driving factor? How much of a role do you think commercialism plays in how we are molded into gender roles as we grow up?

CHECK OUT (What did and did not work for you in today's session?)

CLOSING WORDS

Here is a humorous script about gender roles. Should be read by two persons.

Luann: You know what're really weird, Bernice? All the famous chefs at fancy restaurants are men. But who does most of the cooking at home?

Bernice: Women.

Luann: And the superstar hair stylists are men, but who usually does hair at your local salon?

Bernice: Women.

Luann: The big-time fashion designers are mainly men, but who does most of the sewing in real life?

Bernice: Women.

Luann: Men deliver most of the babies, but who has them all?

Bernice: Women.

Luann: Most world leaders are men. But who's less violent?

Bernice: Women.

Luann: There are lots more men lawyers, yet who wins the arguments in a typical marriage?

Bernice: Women.

Luann: And men are physically stronger than women, but who always ends up carrying everything?

Bernice: Women.

Luann: How'd things get so screwed up anyway?

Bernice: Men?

(LUANN Comic Strip by Greg Evans; Sacramento BEE, April 25, 1993)

APPLICATION: Find time to reflect on ways the uniqueness of your gender equips you to better contribute to society.