



DEPARTMENT of CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Office of Youth Ministry

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CatholicEducationGA.org

Power of Your Testimony

Begin in a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

**** The idea is that this first part is largely a time for brainstorming. There will be a time for sharing later.****

Invite the teens to take a short period of time to relive their lives since they have come to know who God is. This is a moment of prayer where they can walk through their life with the Lord and invite him to show them how he has worked in them. This is to help narrow down their witness to a more concrete instance. Here are some questions you could ask to get them thinking.

- When are the points where they felt really close to God.
- When are the points where they felt distant?
- Did they ever have what could be called a first conversion experience?
- When was a time you felt joyful and at peace with who God created you to be?
- When was the last time you felt close to God? What made you feel close to him?
- How has God acted in your life? Was it miraculous or just kind of normal?
- When was sometime you had to trust in God?

After a couple minutes invite the teens to enter into a time of thanksgiving. Giving thanks to the Lord for the great things that he has done in their lives and asking him to help them in the preparation of their witnesses. The hardest part for many in starting a witness is finding the moment they want to focus on. If this is a problem, suggest that they start with number 2 below.

Give the teens sometime to share the moments that they think they could write their testimony about.

STEPS TO SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY (Taken from Life Teen and slightly edited)

1. Start by sharing what your life was like before you encountered Jesus Christ.

- Your story can include some details but do not share anything scandalous.
- If you were living a life of sin, allude to this but do not share intimate details.
- Do not glorify your life before you met Jesus or make it sound more exciting than your life after you met Jesus.

2. Share your conversion story.

In accomplishing the Church's fundamental mission to build the body of Christ through the catechesis of children, the **DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION** – the *Office of Catholic Schools*, the *Office of Catechesis for Children*, and the *Office of Youth Ministry*, commits expertise, time and energy to provide systemic standards for leadership, support, and service to those who live the mission to prepare hearts, educate minds, reveal Christ and cultivate the Roman Catholic tradition.

Diocese of Savannah Catholic Education...Powering Potential!



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- When did you encounter Jesus Christ? What event or moment was a turning point in your faith life?
- What was it like? Where were you? What was happening around you? What emotions did you have?
- What did Jesus reveal to you about Himself? What did He tell you about yourself?

3. Share how your life changed after this encounter.

- What conclusion did you come to about your life after you met Jesus Christ?
- What changes did you have to make in your life? How do you see yourself now?
- How do you view Jesus now? How is your life better after having met Jesus?
- Share some glory stories about how Jesus has led you and the wonderful things you have done or people you have encountered because you decided to follow Jesus.

4. Practice giving your testimony.

- Base your testimony off of your audience and the amount of time you have to share.

5. Invite them deeper

- What can I say so that the person I am sharing with in front of me has another step to take towards the Lord? Could I invite them to Mass or some other event?

Some questions to consider once you finished planning

- Did I focus on anything or anybody more than Christ?
- Did I spend too much time on my life before Christ glorifying sin?
- Did I use sophisticated “churchy” language that might confuse people?
- Is my witness concrete? Can the person relate to it?
- Is it simple enough to follow easily?
- How long is it? The goal is 3-5 minutes.

If there is time left see if someone would like to share their testimony. If there is not time left encourage them to meet up with a friend and finish and share them with each other.

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