

YOUNG CHRISTIAN AS DISCIPLE REFLECTION

SPEAKER PREPARATION MATERIAL

Speaker: Young Adult

Time: Last Reflection on Go Day

Length: 20-25 minutes

Previous Reflection: Discipleship

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12-16

Setting:

Participants sense the weekend drawing to a close. Having heard the call to discipleship in the previous reflection, while there may be new enthusiasm, there may also be concern about how their deepened faith journey will fit into the world "outside." They are conscious of challenges presented by our current pop culture. To take an open stand for Christ and the values presented by our Church may seem daunting. Your Young Disciple reflection needs to convey very clearly the notion, "It can be done, and this is how I am doing it." The tone of reflection is one of gentle, joyful, and firm encouragement.

Progression:

Many participants are now considering themselves as Jesus' disciples. The weekend may have drawn them closer to Christ and the Christian community. This reflection aims to encourage and empower listeners for the days ahead. They are aware that their families and their friends at school and work all have an image of them. There will be a strong possibility that being a witness for Christ and his gospel will change how others view them.

Purpose:

Go Day projects a Pentecost theme into the conference room. The participants will now be encouraged "to go" in Christ with the Holy Spirit, carrying "good news" to all they encounter. Your reflection will arm them with courage and confidence so that they are ready to move into their familiar settings with renewed hope, love, forgiveness, and peace. You will be a primary witness to the young people that talking about spiritual matters, following the Church's teachings, and serving others as needed is not only personally rewarding, it is vital in our world today. This reflection helps participants be proud of their faith and comfortable with projects that put faith in action.

Faith Awareness:

The Young Christian as Disciple reflection reminds participants that the Christian life is rich with goodness. Both interior growth and everyday responsibilities bring joy as their life in Christ brings forth the transformation of the world. The firm and convincing attitude you bring to describing your journey and day to day activities solidifies in the minds of

the participants their own commitment. Your reflection will give witness to how Christians live, love, and act as they are supported in prayer and strengthened by the Eucharist. This continually strengthens them as they die and rise with Christ each day in their encounters with the people in their lives. We are all on a faith journey together. We go forward, mess up, start over, and try again.

Response:

A weekend of journeying into the heart of Christ in the paschal mystery is culminating with a rush of anticipation of "what's next?" Certain decisions and resolutions may be formulating in the minds and hearts of participants. They are able to open their lives to Christ and his mission because they know they are not alone. They sense that many others will join them in the quest to bring the kingdom into view if they are invited.

Scripture for further reflection:

John 15:11

John 10:10b

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OUTLINE

After reading and praying with the scripture for this reflection, please study the outline carefully. Time constraints may require you to be selective. As you develop your stories and examples, consider the points in bold as most essential to the purpose of your sharing and the continuity of the weekend.

Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Until I arrive, attend to the reading, exhortation, and teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was conferred on you through the prophetic word... Be diligent in these matters, be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to everyone. Attend to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in both tasks, for by doing so you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.
(1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Introduction: Share a joyful moment from your TEC weekend. (Remember, the story of your discipleship is the reflection.)

I. My TEC experience helped me to discover and deepen my call to discipleship.

- A. The strength I gained on my TEC weekend reinforced my relationships and deepened personal courage to be my true self.
 - 1. Talk about how TEC influenced your relationship with God. I have enthusiasm in being my best self...
 - 2. Talk about how TEC influenced your relationship with others: family, friends, co-workers, etc...
- B. TEC influenced how I see myself as a disciple.
 - 1. Read aloud: 1 Timothy 4:12-16 from the enthroned Bible.
 - 2. What does this passage mean to you?
 - 3. What does being a disciple mean to you?
 - 4. Remind everyone that we are called to be disciples
- C. TEC has helped me to become a disciple.
 - 1. I realized that in TEC, I was part of a strong support system, giving me both inspiration and courage to be my true self, especially when...
 - 2. TEC helped me reach out in service to others beyond my friends and family, to help those who needed a friend because of a family situation, loneliness, a destructive habit, or too much pressure to achieve; for example...

- 3 After my TEC, I began developing nurturing and caring attitudes and actions, interested in those who are cut-off from life because they are different (handicapped, elderly, minority, etc.).
4. Connect how discipleship is lived within your parish community.

II. I have resolved to share the Good News we have heard here, and I have tried to live that out in practical ways.

- A. Talk about how you are trying to be a good friend, make a friend, and gently draw others to Christ.
- B. Talk about a service and ministry that you are doing.
- C. Talk about how your life within your parish is helping you to live out your discipleship.

III. Invite the participants to spend a few moments in silence to reflect and journal about these following points:

- A. How can I bring Jesus to my own family to make it a better family?
- B. How can I bring Jesus to my own parish to make it a better place to live and worship?
- C. How can I bring Jesus to my school and/or work environment to share peace and joy?
- D. How can I bring Jesus to my community, enhancing it with the peace and joy of Jesus Christ?

Conclusion:

The prayer of St. Francis is an excellent guide for living a life in Christ in the midst of our family and friends. Please pray it with me from our journals:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy!
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is giving, that we receive;
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying, that we are born to Eternal Life!

After a few moments, "Please share your ideas with your table group."