

January 18, 2023

Name _____

2023 Faith Story Workshop Family Faith Talk Outline

Here is an outline we would suggest:

If you have any questions or challenges, please don't hesitate to ask Pastor DuBois or Mrs. DuBois for help.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS OUTLINE IS NOT THE ASSIGNMENT. Your faith story will need to be written and read as a personal narrative (like telling a story).

1. 8th graders will be assigned a Sunday Worship Service date and time by Pastor DuBois.
2. Check with the family to see if you have any Sunday dates that you cannot present your faith story during February, March and April.
3. **YOUR FAITH STORY IS DUE NEXT WEEK, SO PLEASE BRING IT IN NEXT WEEK** so that Pastor can set up a time to review it and talk with you about how you should revise it if needed. (January 25, 2023)
4. 7th graders should follow the guidelines and come prepared to read it to the 7th and 8th grade confirmation class.
5. Please give enough background to your story so that the listeners can see the connections and how it all fits together. It is important for them to see how God has worked and is working in your life right now.
6. **How do you know that the good things that happen in your life are from God? What kind of things did you see Him do** to bring about good, no matter what you might have been going through?
7. A faith story is more of a **journey** than it is one specific event. "Faith stories build a relational bridge that Jesus can walk across from your heart to others" ...Rick Warren
8. How have you been discipled on your faith journey?
9. **Please choose a specific Bible verse that you feel connects with your faith story, and write it into your faith story.**
10. ***Be sure to Give God the Glory. Anything you did, thought, said or accomplished; you couldn't have done without the Holy Spirit.**

IDEA:

→ **As you write your faith story.** Be sure to **emphasize-**

- ◆ How you see/saw God working in your life?
- ◆ What was He doing behind the scenes?
- ◆ Look at God's timing. **As you look back on a situation or event, you may have wondered, "How did all that work out so well?" (God was in control!)**
- ◆ How did you know He was there for you?
- ◆ Were you discipling, or were you being disciplined?
- ◆ How did he speak to you? (Quiet- after reading God's Word, in a sermon, in a thought, through another person speaking to you, in a situation, **Loud and definite...no doubt about it, and so on.**)
- ◆ Where was your faith at that time? What was your faith like in your early years? Elementary years? 6th Grade? 7th Grade? Now?
 - Growing and maturing
 - Changing for the better/worse
 - "Take it for granted" faith
 - Routine faith—Went through the motions, even though I did not feel like it
 - Weak faith
 - No faith

IDEA:

(It has been said that one's faith story could be focused on one or two words... In the past, I thought I was/and wanted to be "in control", but now I know that God is "in control" of my life.)

Then you follow with the details of where your faith was and where it is today.

- (LOST...FOUND) I was lost...
- (ALONE...WITH GOD) I felt alone...
- (I thought I knew it all...but now I know, God knows it all)

IDEA:

When did your Christian Faith start? Where are you now with your faith life?

Faith life begins..... FAITH STORY..... Where you are now? Where do you see God leading you to disciple other people? How are you “becoming”?

- **Spiritual Disciplines:**

- **Prayer Life, Bible Study, Worship, Servanthood. Which ones have you grown in?**
 - Why will you trust God in the future?
 - What has he done in the past?

Presentation and delivery of faith story:

→ ***Talk slowly and clearly.***

◆ ***TALKING TOO FAST IS ONE OF THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEMS WITH PEOPLE UNDERSTANDING YOUR FAITH STORY!***

→ ***Present your story and interesting and engaging as you can through changes in your voice pitch, and volume.***

→ ***Try to make eye contact as you present your faith story.***

→ ***Practice your faith story about 10 times.***

→ ***You may want to come to church and practice your faith story from the podium by the organ when no one is in the church.***

◆ *****Be sure to Give God the Glory. Anything you did, thought, said or accomplished; you couldn't have done without the Holy Spirit.***

Below is an organizer that might help you start to get ideas down on paper. Try to write down as many ideas as you can even though you may not use them in your final draft of your Faith Story. Please give examples and details as you tell your faith story. Giving examples helps people more deeply understand your faith story.

1. Introduce yourself by stating your first and last name
2. Born- _____
3. Baptized _____

Write down as many notes as you can in each blank below to get yourself started. When you write your faith story, include information that gives background, explains, and helps the listener better understand your Christian faith story.

Early years- What was going on in your life? How did it impact your faith?

Preschool _____

Sunday School _____

Vacation Bible School _____

Prayer life _____

Church life _____

Questions or thoughts about God _____

Biblical Foundation-What/How did you know about God, prayer, and the Bible?

What was your faith like? _____

Who encouraged your Christian faith? _____

How was God working through you? _____

How did God protect you? _____

Life challenges? _____

Opportunities? _____

Blessings? _____

Experiences? _____

Do you think God might have been preparing you and your faith for the future?

Elementary School Years

Sunday School _____

Weekday School _____

Vacation Bible School _____

Prayer life _____

Church life _____

Questions or thoughts about God _____

Biblical Foundation-What/How did you know about God, prayer, and the Bible?

What was your faith like? _____

Who encouraged your Christian faith? _____

How was God working through you? _____

How did God protect you? _____

Life challenges? _____

Opportunities? _____

Blessings? _____

Experiences? _____

Do you think God might have been preparing you and your faith for the future?

Serving opportunities? _____

What spiritual, God-like, maturing as a Christian changes, did you start to observe in your life? _____

Confirmation Years- 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years (This time in your life should be the biggest part of your faith story because you are in Confirmation instruction, serving in the church, maturing in your faith, understanding more, etc.).

Which Confirmation **lessons** helped you grow in your faith or helped you understand more about God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit? _____

Youth Group _____

Vacation Bible School Crew Leader _____

Prayer life _____

Church life _____

Questions or thoughts about God _____

Biblical Foundation-What/How did you know about God, prayer, and the Bible?

What was your faith like? _____

Who encouraged your Christian faith? _____

How was God working through you? _____

How did God protect you? _____

Life challenges? _____

Opportunities? _____

How did you grow in your faith as you were serving- Acolyte, Greeter, Other?

Blessings? _____

Experiences? _____

Do you think God might have been preparing you and your faith for the future?

Future

Where do you think God might be leading you to serve?

How might God use your talents, and abilities? (What ministries in the church are you attracted to/or interested to serve in?)

How might your experiences (good and bad) be used by God to help others or work things for good and God's glory?

BIBLE VERSE: (This should be a verse that you have used to strengthen your faith, one that is special to you, and one that has deep connection with your faith story. You have memorized Bible verses for a couple of years.)

Ask for help if you need it.

→ REMEMBER- THIS IS **JUST** A WORKSHEET WITH ORGANIZERS TO GET YOU STARTED. THE FINAL FAITH STORY MUST BE WRITTEN AS A PERSONAL NARRATIVE IN A “STORY” FORMAT. IT IS NOT JUST ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS.

FAITH STORY GUIDELINES

1. Must be at least **two** pages. (Font size 14 or 16, easy-to-read font) It has to be this long so the listeners can connect and process what you are telling them.
2. Must include a Bible verse that relates to your faith story. (Comfort, Helps, or Guides you)
3. God must be a big part of your story. **Your faith and God are the focus of your story.**
4. How did you know God was there?
 - a. Saw Him working behind the scenes
 - b. Knew He had set things up or in place for you
 - c. Answered prayers-yes, no, wait, different but better
5. Have any of the “Promises of God” encouraged you in your faith?
6. Where do you see yourself on the faith journey in the future?
7. How do you think God will use your gifts and abilities to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission? Do you see some of God’s plan and purpose for your life already? Matthew 28:19-20.
8. How do you plan to live what you believe? What will your life look like? How will you show the love of Jesus to others?
9. Does your story sound like a journey instead of an isolated event?
10. Your faith story should not be used as a way to publicly blame or discredit someone or an organization. **Do not name people, places like school, or events in a negative way.**

11. You don't have to tell all of the details or mention people's names. The focus is your relationship with God. You might say, "I had a lot of challenges", "I had a lot of tough times", "God really blessed me with____", or "God put wonderful people in my life to encourage me." Don't mention people, places or events that your parents and family members **would not** like you to share. (Your parents must sign the faith story saying that you can share what you wrote with the congregation.)

PLEASE MAKE 3 COPIES OF YOUR FAITH STORY. ONE FOR PASTOR, ONE FOR MRS. DUBOIS, AND ONE FOR YOU.

Memory Work: 1 Peter 3:15

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"

Parent Signature_____

I have heard my child say the memory work.

I have read my child's faith story and he/she has practiced it.

Parent Signature_____

My child has worked on, and written this Faith Story. I believe this is a very good effort from my child.

I have signed my child's faith story indicating that he/she has permission to share it in class or with the congregation.

Ask her to print you 3 copies. She will print you 3 copies. One for you. One for Pastor and one for Mrs. DuBois

YOUR TYPED FAITH STORY IS DUE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023.

PLEASE GIVE TWO COPIES TO MRS. DUBOIS. THANK YOU.

If you are unable to print at home you may email your faith story to Mrs. Young in the Front Office. Ask her to print you three copies. One for you, one for Pastor, and one for Mrs. DuBois: nancy@immanuelsc.org