



Young Christian as Disciple Meditation

Time: 2nd meditation on Go Day

Length: 20-25 minutes

Speaker: young adult

Purpose: The theme on the third day of TEC is the Pentecost theme: “to go in Christ and carry the Good News of Christ to all who have not heard it.” This is a witness talk by a young adult slightly older than the average age of the candidates who has actually gone out into the world and through his/her Christian presence, has transformed a part of the world. The young adult shows what life is like for a young Christian living in the midst of family, school, work and circle of friends, etc. The speaker affirms strongly the need for convinced Catholic Christians among young people today who are not afraid to own their faith. The speaker must project the truth: Faith is not just a private affair between me and my God; it is God living in and through me in the Christ-life God shares with me through the Holy Spirit. Who I am in Christ’s presence is who I am in reality.

The tone of the speaker should be firm and convinced, but it must not be preachy. The attitude should be: I am a person very much like yourselves and yet look what happened when I took a stand and decided to accept Christ’s invitation to be his disciple seriously.

Setting: By this time at the close of the weekend, the candidates should be enthusiastic about the new vision of life they now enjoy. But there is obvious concern about how this will fit into the world “outside.” They are conscious of how hard it is in our present youth culture to take an open stand for Christ and the values the Church brings to us. This meditation has to convey the clear notion “It can be done and this is how I am doing it.”

As a young Christian, I do not expect to be catered to, to be treated as someone who always has to be called back to the faith. I refuse to accept the fact that I am the first generation of youth in 2000 years who cannot, or who do not wish to accept the responsibility of my faith within the community of God’s People, the Church, of which I am a proud member. I would also like to share with you the personal joy I have received for the times I was able to make Christ present where he was absent before.

Outline:

Scripture: (1 Timothy 4: 12-16) “Do not let people disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith and your purity...You have in you a spiritual gift which was given to you when the prophets spoke and the body of elders laid their hands on you; do not let it lie unused. Think hard about all this, and put it into practice, and everyone will be able to see how you are advancing. Take great care about what you do and what you teach; always do this, and in this way you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.”

SPECIAL NOTE: Since this meditation is a practical down-to-earth sharing of how the young adult chosen has taken what he/she experienced in TEC and has made changes in his/her life and has become involved in sharing the you with others, the focus of the talk is primarily on his/her own story as it

unfolded. Hence, it is important for those who select the speaker for this meditation to be aware of the variety of young adults in their community who are good models of what is here proclaimed. The person proclaiming here (in this instance even more so than in the other meditations) is very much the message. What is offered as an outline is in reality a number of insights that might be incorporated into the presentation.

1. My TEC experience was the source of a great joy for me.
 - a. What we are experiencing here is the kind of happiness living as a Christian brings to our lives.
 - b. Jesus said: "I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)
 - c. In TEC we live the way God wants us to live all the time.
 - d. Now we come to the point where we have to plan how we can keep this joy alive in ourselves and how we can share it with others.
2. I have found that TEC enabled me:
 - a. To carry within me a stronger sense that God sees and loves me.
 - b. To have a much better feeling about myself.
 - c. To have a much better feeling about others.
 - d. To see the people in my life matter more to me than things.
3. The way I felt after my TEC helped me to:
 - a. Change the way I pray.
 - b. Change the way I relate to my family, my friends and my classmates.
 - c. Change the way I look at developing and using my talents.
 - d. Change the way I am willing to suffer.
4. The friendships I developed on TEC and later in the TEC family:
 - a. Gave me a group with whom I can share intimately with trust.
 - b. Gave me a group who loved life, a good time and still were serious about their relationship with God and the things of God.
 - c. Gave me a strong support system, enabling me to be my true self.
 - d. Gave me the courage to do things I might not have done on my own.
5. I gradually learned what St Augustine meant when he said we should be "Christ for one another." I found myself helping other persons outside of the TEC family who needed the encouragement of a friend:
 - a. Those in a family situation which is not nurturing and caring.
 - b. Those who, through loneliness, have taken up destructive habits.
 - c. Those who feel pressured to achieve beyond their giftedness.
 - d. Those who are cut off from life due to a handicap.
6. To share the Good News we have heard here, I have found a simple formula:
 - a. Be a friend, make a friend, to gently draw them into friendship with Christ.
 - b. Friends do not crowd other persons.
 - c. Friends share the truth by living the truth together.
 - d. Friends are honest with one another.
 - e. Friends are willing to walk the extra mile to help a friend.

7. I find that TEC has provided me with the insights which will enable me:
 - a. To be enthusiastic about becoming all that I can be.
 - b. To choose a career that is concerned with helping other people, rather than just accumulating wealth.
 - c. To be aware that who I am for others is more important than what I do.
 - d. To be aware that I can really change the world and bring the presence of Christ to it. My experiences have taught me that I can make a difference.
8. Now I am going to ask you to spend a few moments in silence, thinking about what you:
 - a. Can do in your own family to make it a better family.
 - b. Can do in our own parish to help make it a better place to live and worship.
 - c. Can do to bring to your school environment peace and joy.
 - d. Can do in the community in which you live to enhance it.

After a few moments, please share your plans with your group.

A suggested conclusion: (if it is used, the speaker should share a card with the prayer.)

On Saturday night we used the Prayer of St Francis as a basis for our examination of conscience before the Sacrament of Reconciliation. NOW WE SEE THIS PRAYER IS ALSO A VERY EXCELLENT GUIDE FOR LIVING A LIFE IN CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF OUR FRIENDS. Let me read it for you once again.

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.

(add a brief example with each)

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 in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.