

## Baptism/Confirmation Testimony

Part of being baptized or confirmed is publicly declaring your faith in Jesus Christ. At Young Nak Celebration Church we ask that all our baptism/confirmation candidates prepare a short testimony to share with the congregation, via video, about what brought them to this place in their relationship with God. Sharing your testimony at your baptism/confirmation ceremony is a two-step process, which involves writing your testimony first, then filming your testimony.

### WRITING YOUR TESTIMONY

We ask that your testimony be kept to one minute and a half. A **word count** of about **250** equates to approximately a minute and a half of talk time. Though it may seem like a short time, you will be amazed at how much one can share in that amount of time.

Below are some tips and an outline to help you with the writing process. Please be sure to take the time to really think through what you would like to share with the congregation as you take this important step in your faith journey.

### TESTIMONY TIPS

Our desire is that you are able to be as clear as possible about who Christ is and what baptism is about.

1. Remember, this is not about you; it's about God. Your testimony is to give Him glory and to tell your part in His great story. **The focus is Jesus Christ and how he has changed your life.**
2. Be genuine. This is not a school midterm essay! Do not feel pressured to sound academic. Simply be yourself and speak from the heart. Write as if it were a transcript of a conversation between you and a friend where you are telling your friend your story.
3. Please do not say that you have "always been a Christian". This gives the idea that it is something that you can inherit. Becoming a Christian is about making the decision to accept Christ's death on the cross as payment for your sin not just growing up in a Christian home.
4. Please don't talk about the sins of someone else.
5. Tell a story. There should be a beginning, middle and an end (which hopefully takes us to your declaration of faith).
6. Lean towards being more specific than more general. The more details you have *that are relevant*, the more real it becomes not only to the audience, but to yourself as well.
7. If you're having trouble figuring out main points of your testimony, think of it this way: the main points are highlights and/or turning points you would like to mention. In between each main point, you'll say a sentence or two to tie them together. This should help your testimony sound more conversational and less recited.
8. **PLEASE BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR SALVATION.** Your walk with Christ is definitely a process, but you need to be able to express a point in time that you recognized that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. You don't have to know the exact date and time, but there was a time when you accepted Christ, and you need to express that clearly.

### Here is an outline to get you started.

1. Introduce yourself
2. Your life before accepting Christ
3. How and when you accepted Christ as your personal Savior
4. How He has affected your life
5. Optional, thank no more than one or two people who have helped you in your walk
6. Your public profession (For example, "I am here today to let you know that Jesus Christ is my Lord Savior.")

\*\*Once you have prepared your testimony, please email it to Tricia Lee at [tricia@ynccla.org](mailto:tricia@ynccla.org). Your testimony will be read, edited, and returned to you for approval before your filming date.

### **FILMING YOUR TESTIMONY**

There will be two dates for filming. You will sign up for your filming appointment at the Baptism Prep Class.

#### **Filming Tips**

Practice sharing your testimony out loud several times to:

1. Make sure it fits within the 1.5 minute time limit (it should be **NO MORE THAN 250-300** words long written out)
2. Get comfortable sharing and telling your story since there is no teleprompter or cue cards in the filming room.
3. Start breaking the habit of reading your story straight from your notes since you won't be able to while filming.
4. Be yourself. I'm sure you've all seen the difference between a testimony that is read versus one that is told. Expression, tears, smiles, stumbling over words – that's what makes it authentic! That's what people will grasp!

\*PLEASE PRACTICE BUT BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE INPUT.

\*WE URGE YOU NOT TO MEMORIZE WORD FOR WORD.

#### **Attire for Filming Video**

1. For lighting purposes it is best that you **not wear solid white**. Also, since the background is black, please **do not wear a dark color**, as we want to avoid a floating-head look.
2. Please do **not wear anything that will rise above the knees** when you sit, i.e. shorts or a skirt.
3. Also, please do not wear anything that shows too much skin: avoid tank tops, thin straps, and low-cut shirts.

#### **Pictures for Your Testimony**

***Please bring 2-3 photos with you on your filming date that directly relate to your story:*** family members that influenced you, a picture of a pivotal time or person, a picture of your small group or on a mission trip. We may or may not use any or all of them in your video, but it is one more way that we can visually tell your story, so please bring them with you.

It is our hope that this entire process would be a joyful one for everyone involved. If you need help with anything, or simply have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to reading your written testimonies soon!

Tricia Lee  
Baptism Coordinator  
323.227.1414 ext. 116  
[tricia@ynccla.org](mailto:tricia@ynccla.org)