

## Statement of Faith Devotion Guidelines

Congratulations! Now that you have chosen your Life Verse/Confirmation Verse, it's time to begin working on your Statement of Faith Devotion! Your statement of faith is a short devotion on your life verse that will be shared publicly before the congregation at a worship service in the months before Confirmation Sunday. This devotional statement will consist of four parts: an opening illustration, some Bible background, a connection between the verse and your life, and a short closing prayer.

On the Wednesday before the public sharing of your statement of faith, you will need to review your statement of faith with one of the pastors or the DCE. These statements of faith need to be typed and double spaced so that it is easier to make comments, tweaks, and changes at the review.

### **INTRODUCTION: BIBLE VERSE**

At the top of your statement, please put the Bible verse, both the reference and the text

### **PART ONE: OPENING ILLUSTRATION** - *This part should be written last*

This section will probably be the easiest one to write. Think of an illustration or connection to something in your life verse. For example, if your verse talks about a refuge, perhaps share something about taking refuge in a castle. Or, if your verse talks about fear, share some things that people might be afraid of. Some of these illustrations would be good ideas for you to incorporate into your banner design.

Sample paragraph starters:

- “Imagine a ...
- “The dictionary defines [a key word] as...
- “In [song/movie/TV show], there is...

This section should get people interested in listening to the rest of your statement. It should be between one and three sentences.

### **PART TWO: BIBLE BACKGROUND** – *This part should be written first*

For this section, you are to look up some more information about your Bible verse and dig a little deeper. This section can answer questions such as: “What does this word mean?” “Who was speaking?” “Who was listening to this?” “What events in the Bible’s big story are right before, during, or right after this verse?”

Upon the selection of your verse, the Pastor will send you via e-mail a short document with some study notes to help you dig deeper into this portion of the Bible. Use these study notes as a basis for this portion.

Sample paragraph starters for this section would be:

- “In this Bible verse, Jesus...
- “This Psalm is a psalm about...
- “God is telling His people in this verse that...

This section should be between two and five sentences long. It should be written first because it should be the foundation of the rest of the devotion

**PART THREE: CONNECTION BETWEEN BIBLE VERSE AND YOUR LIFE** – *This part is written second*

For this section, make a connection between the Bible verse and your life as a child of God. This section is the place to share a personal story about why you chose this verse and how you either have seen it impact your life, or how you hope it will shape your life in the future (or both!).

Sample paragraph starters for this section would be things like:

- “This passage is important to me because...
- “This verse will guide me in my life by...
- “God is telling me in this passage that...

This part should be two to five sentences and will be the second portion that you will write.

**PART FOUR: SHORT CLOSING PRAYER** – *This part should be written third*

This prayer will have three parts:

1. Address – the way in which you would like to begin your prayer. Examples include, “Dear God,” “Dear Jesus,” “Dear Lord,” or simply “Jesus,” or “God.”
2. Body – the things you would like to pray for. Think back to your Prayer unit of confirmation to the four main types of things to pray about by remembering the word ACTS:
  - A – Adoration – Praising God for who He is and what He has done
  - C – Confession – Telling God you are sorry for things done wrong
  - T – Thanksgiving – Giving God credit for blessings in life
  - S – Supplication – Asking God to give, do, or be with someone or something (most of our prayers fall into this category)

You must use two of the above categories in the body of your prayer

3. Closing – How you will finish your prayer, for example: “In Jesus’ name, Amen” or “In Your name we pray, Amen.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please feel free to contact our DCE and/or Pastors for help with any of these portions.

## **Sample Statement of Faith Devotional**

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:31-32

[PART ONE: OPENING ILLUSTRATION]

Every July, people all across our nation celebrate freedom. On the day of our nation’s independence, we celebrate this freedom with fireworks, cookouts, and some time to kick back and relax for a little bit.

[PART TWO: BIBLE BACKGROUND]

In John chapter 8, Jesus talks about freedom, saying: “The truth will set you free.” In these verses, “truth” does not mean “the opposite of telling a lie,” but instead means the Word of God – the Bible. Jesus makes a promise that those who stay close to the Bible will have a freedom unlike any other.

[PART THREE: CONNECTION BETWEEN BIBLE VERSE AND YOUR LIFE]

In my life, I aim to read the Bible every single day. Now I am in a great routine where I read it from my phone before I get out of bed in the morning. I’m not always perfect at reading it every day, but when I do, there is freedom – freedom of knowing that I am in His hands and have a firm foundation to stand on no matter what happens in my life.

[PART FOUR: SHORT CLOSING PRAYER]

[ADDRESS] Dear Jesus,

[BODY] Thank you for giving me the gift of Your Word, the Bible. (T – Thanksgiving) Help me to continue in Your Word each day. (S – Supplication)

[CLOSING] Amen.