

# ***Magnify***

## **2020 Witness Talk Questions**

*Each Daily Theme is a question from God. Each topic under the theme is Mary's response to God. Example: Do you Trust Me? Mary said yes to the Angel and trusted that she was to become the Mother of Jesus.*

### **Tuesday Theme - "Magnify"**

The goal of this witness talk is to introduce how Mary magnifies the Lord with her life and how we are called to do the same. This talk will introduce everyone to a young girl around your age who with her "yes" became Theotokos ("Mother of God").

#### **Talking Points:**

1. This week we will dive into the life of Mary, Theotokos ("Mother of God"). Who was she? What formed her into the beautiful mother she became?
2. Mary "Magnified" the Lord with her life. What does this mean? How have I Magnified God with my life? What are other ways young people can Magnify the Lord?
3. Within the tradition of the Church Mary has many names such as: Mother of the Church, Mother of Grace, Throne of Wisdom, etc. Research a name that resonates with you and explain why. Encourage the teens to do the same.
4. Share a goal that you have for you and your group this week.

#### **References to Guide You:**

- Luke 1:26-28: in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"
- "Bring obedient she (Mary) became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race" -St. Irenaeus
- Luke 1:46-55 Mary's Magnificat
  - "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."

## **Wednesday Theme - Do You Trust Me?**

Mary is the perfect example of faith and trust in the Lord. The goal of this talk is to show the teens how Mary trusted in God even though she had a lot to risk and help them see where they need to trust God in their own lives.

### **Talking Points:**

1. Mary's Fiat (her saying yes to God) was a response that changed the world forever. In what ways have you said yes to God or do you still need to say yes to God? How did/might your life and the life of others be changed by your yes?
2. Mary was an unmarried teenager who trusted completely that God would somehow provide for her as long as she fully trusted Him. Her witness of trust reminds us of the faith we should have. When is a time where you completely relied on the Lord? What holds you back from relying on the Lord?
3. What would the world look like if everyone relied on God and had complete trust in Him?
4. How can teens trust God with their lives when they receive so much pressure from other teens, adults and society about what choices they should make?

### **References to Guide You:**

- "To succeed in your intentions, entrust yourselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary always, but especially in moments of difficulty and darkness. 'From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God...Learn from her to be always faithful, to trust that God's Word to you will be fulfilled, and that nothing is impossible with God.'" - St. John Paul II
- "By pronouncing her "fiat" at the Annunciation and giving her consent to the Incarnation, Mary was already collaborating with the whole work her Son was to accomplish. She is mother wherever he is Savior.." - Catechism of the Catholic Church # 97
- "Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her." - Luke 1:38

## **Thursday-Will You Follow Me?**

Mary is the perfect model of what it means to be a Christian in her following of Christ and belief in Him. The goal of this talk is to help the teens see how Mary can be an intercessor in our own commitment to following her Son.

### **Talking Points:**

- At the wedding of Cana Mary encourages those present to do as Jesus says and thus His public ministry begins with His first miracle. Mary's final words in Scripture "do whatever he tells you" still ring true today as a guide for our lives.
- What is the most challenging thing about following God as a young person today?
- It often seems simpler/more rewarding to do your own will rather than the Lord's will. Mary models for us and instructs us to follow the Lord's desire for our lives. How can we follow Mary's example in our daily lives and in big decisions?
  - Share a time where you have followed the Lord's will. Share the fruits of that experience.
- Imagine you are in Mary's position and your child is doing things which are considered so radical and countercultural. How would you manage your own fear of the unknown while finding the strength to follow God?

### **References to Guide You:**

- John 2:1-2 Wedding at Cana (in particular, Mary's guidance to the servants and to us to "do whatever he tells you")
- "Her [Mary's] example of faithful perseverance in doing the will of God and her heavenly reward are a source of courage and hope for all of us." - Pope Benedict XVI
- "Mary was the first person to take the 'way' to enter the Kingdom of God that Christ opened, a way which is accessible to the humble, to all who trust in the word of God and endeavor to put it into practice." - Pope Benedict XVI
- "...From the Church, Christians learn the example of holiness and recognizes its model and source in the all-holy Virgin Mary.." - CCC 230

## **Saturday Large Group Discussion**

The goal of this parish time discussion is to look back on what the teens have learned throughout the week of camp and look forward towards what life is going to look like when they return from camp. There is often a lot of uncertainty and questions from teens about how to take the experience of camp and the spiritual high they are on and bring that back into their normal lives. As youth ministers you have likely seen teens who go from being fully invested on retreats and at camp and then returning back to old habits after a few months at home. This is your time to set goals with them and see what you can do to keep them engaged after camp.

### **Questions:**

1. What was the most impactful part of the service we did this week for you?
2. What stuck out to you from the witness talks this week?
3. Which prayer experience were you the most present in/which was the most meaningful? (Opening Mass on Tuesday, praise and worship, daily Mass, daily decade of the Rosary, morning Adoration, Reconciliation, Large Group Adoration).
4. What did you learn about yourself this week?
5. With the information you learned about yourself what is one thing you want to work on in your life? \*we suggest having the teens write down their goal in their journal. At this point it might be beneficial to discuss accountability/prayer partners and possibly even pair up your teens. Have them share their goal with one another and commit to holding one another accountable and praying for them as they work on their goal.
6. How can we take this experience home with us? What is one thing that you can do personally to make our youth group experience at home have the spirit of camp?
7. What is one youth group event that you can commit to attending or helping with?
8. What is one thing you would like to see happen at our church? How can you help make it happen? (coming off of camp may want to see more service, praise and worship, or Adoration. We know as a youth minister you already have a lot on your plate so it is important for the teens to take some responsibility in making these things happen.)