

Teen Video Contest - Be a Digital Disciple

SMALL GROUP REFLECTION

Did you ever wonder where you came from?

Did you ever wonder how you became the person that you are today?

Science tells us about our inherited genetic make-up, and that can help us understand some of our physical traits.

History describes the story of our ancestors with their struggles and triumphs and how that has helped to shape who we are. But there is something more about us, something beyond the reach of science and history.

We are people of faith, people who believe in Jesus and have a relationship with him and with each other in him. How did *that* happen? Across two thousand years, beginning with the earliest followers of Jesus, the word of faith has been handed on from generation to generation. You are the latest generation to receive the word of faith from people who have gone before you. And you will be the next generation to hand it on to people who are not yet born.

Here is an opportunity to pass on your faith and get together with other teens, this can be in a religion class, a Youth Ministry session, at a prayer group or Bible Study session. Together you will go through the reflection process that begins with listening to Scripture, reflecting, sharing and praying. Allow 30-40 minutes, longer if there are a large number of participants.

This might be the first step that inspires you and other teens to create a video for the **Teen Video Contest – Be a Digital Disciple**.

Remember 2,000 years ago our Church began with a small group of disciples who knew about Jesus and went out to tell others the story of his love.

Reflect...

Jesus modeled for us how to live, love and forgive. Jesus gave his life for us. He gives us the strength and hope to keep going on our life journey. We receive God's gift with gratitude. And we want to share it with others. We can only do that by telling our story, by giving witness.

HANDING ON THE FAITH

Start here...

Gather with other teens. Read the Letter from St. Paul to Timothy and follow the steps below.

I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and that I am confident lives also in you. For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

2 Tim 1:5-8

Think about it...

From our earliest years as small children until now, we see how faith is lived out through actions and words of generosity, compassion and forgiveness. Ask yourselves these questions:

- ◆ Who in your family demonstrates compassion and forgiveness?
- ◆ How do your parents, grandparents or caregivers live out the teachings of Jesus?
- ◆ Have you seen a family member demonstrate hope even though they were suffering?
- ◆ Was there a time in your family that showed the cost of loving others?

Share with others...

In a small group, talk about two or three important moments when you witnessed faith in action with your family or loved ones?

How does the model of faith at home help you to live your ordinary day-to-day life?

Now you know and can see how important it is to live a life grounded in faith. What do you think would help other teens to understand and appreciate a faith lived at home? Make sure that everyone has time to share.

Closing Prayer...

Bring your prayers and needs and the needs of our Church to the God.