

"What Jesus Means to Me"

"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
-Romans 10:10

You're standing in front and your palms are sweaty, your mouth is dry and you'd give just about anything to be somewhere else. It must be the Wednesday night that you're giving you essay "What Jesus Means to Me". You may think we are just trying to torture you, but we're not!

The purpose of having you stand up in church and share with the congregation your essay is so that the entire congregation can rejoice in your faith in Jesus Christ. We can't see into your hearts, so we love to hear you talk about the faith God has given to you. This is an opportunity for you the think about your faith and what you want to share with the other Christians of the congregation.

A couple of things to think about when getting your essay ready:

- Think about what blessings God has brought into your life.
- Think about what your life might be like without Jesus.
- Think about Scripture verses you especially like or have special meaning to you. If you can't find them ask me and I will help you search them out. You can use your confirmation verse as a good starting point. Look at some of your memory work verses for other ideas.
- Is there anything in your life that helps you especially relate to the Good News of Jesus? For example, you may be adopted and know the love your mom and dad have for you even though you're not their "flesh and blood." That may help you understand God's adopting you as His child even though you didn't deserve it.
- Talk with your parents and ask them what Jesus means to them.

Here are a couple of guidelines for you to follow as you prepare your essay:

- There must be a minimum of 3 quotes from the Bible.
- It is to be at least 200 words long.
- A typed or neatly (yes, it is possible for me to reject a sloppy essay) written copy is to be turned in to me one week before you are to present it in church. I will go through the essay with you and give you feedback.
- Begin your essay with "Hi, my name is ____." and end with "This is what Jesus means to me."

The Reminder:

I am signed up to present my essay in church on:

Wednesday _____ at the 6:00pm service.

I must turn in a typed or neatly written copy on Wednesday _____.