



Personal Faith Statement Guide

A faith statement is a summary of what you believe, hope, and trust. The finished project will be your own statement of faith in God, your Savior Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Your faith statement should answer the question, "What is my relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?"

You should plan on thinking about, working on, and finishing up the plan for your faith statement before the 9th Grade Retreat on Sunday, September 17th. During the retreat you will share and discuss your faith statement with your small group leader and/or members of our staff. The final draft or presentation of your faith statement is due by Wednesday, October 11th. Each student will need to schedule a time to meet with Zac to discuss faith statements between Wednesday, September 27th and Wednesday, October 11th. There will be a doodle calendar emailed out to sign up for these meetings in August.

There's no one right way to write a faith statement. For some of you, it will be natural to write out a faith statement. For others it may make more sense to be creative with video, art, dance or music.

This is your faith statement. Have fun thinking about how you can best express your sense of God's work in your life.

The following are some suggestions or ideas to consider as you work on your faith statement:

- 1) Don't begin by thinking, "How long does it have to be?" The answer is however long it takes to tell your story.
- 2) Be honest; don't worry about saying the right or wrong thing. Your faith statement isn't graded or corrected, it is an opportunity to express yourself without fear.
- 3) Be creative; some students have written poems, songs or children's books. Some have created an art piece along with a written description on what inspired them to create it. Other ideas might be to play a piece of music or share a dance along with a written description on what inspired you to create it.

Here are some topics to consider as you work on your Faith Statement. Just pick one to think and reflect on as you write your paper.

- 1) Let others know:
 - What impact has Jesus had on your life?
 - What does confirmation mean to you?
 - Why is faith important to you?
 - Have you ever been transformed or changed through your faith?
- 2) Think about and share:
 - How do people know you are a Christian?
 - How would you like to change the world because of your faith?
 - Do the relationships you have reflect your faith?
 - How does the way you spend your time show your faith?
 - Why do you want to make a difference in our world?

- 3) Share a story of your life that helps illustrate what your faith is all about or how your faith in God has been shaped.
- 4) Give personal examples of times in your life when your community and faith helped you through difficult times or to grow in faith.
- 5) Write about how your faith and understanding of God and being part of the church has changed since you started Confirmation in seventh grade. What has led to these changes in your faith? Is faith more important to you now? Why?
- 6) Share the questions or struggles you may have about your faith. Are you going through a difficult time in your life? How can your faith help you?
- 7) Who has helped you grown in faith? What have your parents done for you? Why have they raised you in the church?
- 8) Share a Bible story or Bible verse that is special to you? How have the story or verse helped you to grow:
 - In your faith?
 - With your relationship with God?
 - With your relationship with your family?
 - With your relationship with your friends?
- 9) How do you see yourself living out your faith in the future? How do you think God and your faith in Jesus will shape your life four months (a year, ten years) from now?
- 10) What help or support do you need from your classmates, parents, family, pastors, godparents, friends and members of the church to help you grow in your faith and keep your Affirmation of Baptism promises? Be specific.
- 11) Where do you need help from God to have your faith grow?
- 12) What do you have to offer to others to help them grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ?
- 13) What feelings or emotions do you have when you think about your faith?

Remember that faith is a lifelong journey. This faith statement isn't meant to be a final document, but a kind of journal entry along your lifelong journey of faith as you prepare for the ceremony of Confirmation.

Affirmation of Baptism Promise

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do and I ask God to help and guide me.