



REMEMBER

- You are probably way more uncomfortable talking about Jesus than others are hearing about him!
- Your story is only part of the picture. Have you asked them about their faith story? Everyone has one—whether they have met Jesus yet or not. What is theirs?
- If you want to tell them something about God but aren't sure how they will respond—tell them how you are feeling. It's okay.
- They may not imagine that Jesus could have any good news for them. Can you?
- John 5:17 tells us "My Father is always working and so am I". Jesus is at work all around the youth and inside of you. Notice his work in you and tell the youth about it.



RECOGNIZE

- In court, a testimony is the firsthand account of something you've seen, heard or witnessed. That's what your faith testimony is meant to be. No fancy speech. No scripts from someone else. The story of your experience with Jesus. That's it.
- Your story with Jesus is about more than how it started (ie. your "conversion")...it's also about what you've noticed, appreciated or wondered about him along the way! There are places where your story will overlap with the story of Jesus in their life that they haven't noticed yet. Expect that and tell them about it when you notice.
- Some days your testimony will be about what you know to be true despite what/how you are feeling. Be honest AND truthful. Show what it looks like to hold onto Jesus in the good and the bad.



RESPOND

- **Put a spotlight on God in their world.** Direct their eyes to places where you see God at work around them.
 - ▶ *"Can't help but think that God is trying to get your attention with all of this."*
 - ▶ *"I can see that God made you with some pretty good stuff inside. I wonder what things he has for you to do with it?"*
 - ▶ *"Because I know God, I notice when people are like him. Today I saw him in you!"*
- **Tell stories of God in your world.** If Jesus is part of all your life, it's only natural to include stories about him in your everyday conversation - not as an argument for faith but as the story of your life. It may feel awkward at first, but including our walk with Jesus in our conversations is a true representation of who we are and what's important to us. It also lets them know that talking about faith with you is entirely o.k.

- ▶ *"It might sound strange, but when that happens to me, I talk to Jesus about it."*
- ▶ *"Today started out with me and God having a great conversation about something that's really been bugging me..."*
- ▶ *"God put some interesting things in my day today and it's been good."*

- **Ask interesting questions.** Think about things that open up the window of possibility for them.
 - ▶ *"If there was a God, do you think he would care about this?" or "What would you pray if you believed God was real?"*
 - ▶ *"What would you hope God would be like?"*

- **Pray for them—Pray with them.**
 - ▶ *Tell them that God puts them in your thoughts so you pray. Ask if you can pray for them now and when you aren't together. Ask them to pray for you.*



TALKING ABOUT JESUS



RESOURCES

www.mylifetree.com/seven-sins-talking-jesus-teen/ - A good article for checking common mistakes in talking about Jesus.

www.youthworker.com - Search "Teaching as Jesus Taught" for some solid principles for engaging teens with Jesus.