

Leader Guide for SESSION 2: WITNESS

Overview:

Rather famously, Pope Paul VI once said "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, §41). This session pursues an understanding of what it means *to be* a witness – a witness of the action of God in our lives – and how a witness gives testimony. Participants will learn practical tips on how to give a testimony and will begin working on crafting their story of encounter.

Note to Facilitators:

Prior to leading this session for your volunteers, we encourage you to watch the *Bonus Segment for Equip Facilitators* and complete the necessary prep work so you are in a good position to shepherd your volunteer team through a rather personal session.

Session Outline:

- The facilitator should welcome everyone, provide time for any necessary introductions, and lead a brief opening prayer. Next, he/she should read the overview (see above) or provide an overview of the session in his/her own words.
- Watch Segment 1: What are Witness and Testimony? (4:28)
 - As a group: Read Acts 26:1-29 and then discuss the following:
 - Can you recall the four Acts of a good testimony? (Answer: Life before coming to know Jesus; How I came to know Jesus; Your present life in Christ; Invitation).
 - Can you identify the four distinct "Acts" of St. Paul's testimony?
 - What strategies does he employ in each "Act" in order to render his testimony more effective?
- Watch Segment 2: You Have a Testimony! (2:30)
 - Invite the members of your team to take time for personal prayer and reflection with the following questions: (1) When have you become aware of God's presence in your life? (2) In as much detail as you can recall, what happened?
 - Be sure the volunteers have something to write with and something to write on, should they wish to jot down their ideas. In fact, we highly recommend getting them writing.
 - Make yourself available during this time of personal reflection to answer your volunteers' questions, to shepherd them through past experiences, or to walk with someone who might not be sure if he/she has had a conversion yet.

- Nb. If a person has not had a conversion, invite this person to share with you a bit of his/her own journey up to this point, even if a definitive conversion has not happened. Perhaps this person could try to describe his/her relationship with God to you. Encourage him/her to consider identifying what is holding him/her back from a more complete surrender to God. What obstacles stand in the way, etc. Encourage him/her to make an honest prayer bringing these obstacles to the Lord. You might even find it fruitful to pray with this person on the spot, helping him/her bring these petitions to the Lord and praying for conversion together.
- Watch Segment 3: How to Give Your Testimony (4:34)
 - Invite the Core Team members to prayerfully complete the “Testimony Worksheet.” Provide 15-20 minutes for this and let them know that bullet points are encouraged!
 - Next, have the volunteers partner up (preferably with a member of the same sex) and share their three-minute testimony.
- Takeaways and Closing Prayer
 - The facilitator should invite participants to briefly share their biggest takeaway or question from the session. The facilitator should note these carefully, as they will provide fodder for one-on-one follow up.
 - The facilitator should close the session with a prayer.