Need: 2 flashlights, spoons, snacks, testimony paper copies, notebooks, pens, instrumental music and/or Christian music cd, wood pieces, polyurethane, paint brushes, fancy pens

**Youth Group – Witness Talks and Stuebenville fundraiser craft**

1. Opening Prayer/ Snacks (5 min.)
2. Split: Rate Your Week (10 min.)
3. Together: Explain Theme for the night (1 Peter 3:15 verse) and play Game (10-15 min.)

Bible Smugglers

Have two leaders be "missionaries." They hide somewhere with the flashlight turned on, holding it straight up. Each kid gets a "Bible" and they have to bring it to the missionaries.

**The Catch:** They are in a foreign country and there are border guards everywhere (these are the other youth staff). If a kid gets caught by a border guard, they have to do what the guard says. The guard can be from any country (it's fun to have crazy accents), and basically their job is to get the kids to tell them the gospel message. The guards should ask questions like, "What are you doing?", "What is a Bible?" "What is the Bible about?" "Who is this Jesus?" "What happens if I believe in Jesus?", "What is Heaven?” etc. (You can throw in things like, "In my country we believe in a million gods..."). The kids get sent to jail if they answer a question wrong or if they lie (such as if you ask them what they are doing and they say, "just going for a midnight stroll"). If they explain the message well, then they can go on to find the missionaries. Once they find the missionaries, they can come back to the start (which is where the jail is located) and get more Bibles to deliver to the missionaries. When in jail, the kids have to convince the guard to let them out of jail by the same methods as getting caught by a border guard.

Share with the kids that we don’t have to go all the way to another country to be missionaries. Kids right around us at school are longing to hear about Jesus and we can tell them – share your testimony!

1. Jenalle – Testimony (5 min.) in church with kids in pews?
2. Prayer Time in church (20-30 min.)
	* Guided Meditation – Spread out in church with paper (see below front and back), instrumental music, first have them close their eyes and imagine meeting Jesus on a path in the woods. He smiles at you lovingly and asks you to sit down on a bench with him. He says, “Tell me about your life”. Have kids read/journal about the questions or guide them/read them yourself out loud with plenty of meditation time btw.
	* Break into groups (one of us lead each one) in church
* Read Bible conversion story or stories or they can read it on their own (St. Paul and/or Lost Son)
* Discuss their thoughts on the meditation, Bible stories, and the testimony ?s
	+ - On their own - Pray through questions to help write testimony
		- Share Testimonies if time or tell them we’d like them to plan on sharing at youth group in Dec. and Jan.

**Meditation: “Tell me about your life.”**



* When did I first become real to you, when did you know I loved you personally and wasn’t just a far away God?
* Who or what experience helped you to know Me?
* I am still creating you. Can you see how you are different now compared with before?
* Can you remember any difficult times when I was with you and helped you?
* When do you feel closest to Me? When do you know my peace and love and have joy?

**Sharing Your Testimony**

**“Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be prepared to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope. But do this with gentleness and respect.”- 1 Peter 3:15**

What is a Testimony?

1. Definition: To speak forth in telling the truth about a matter
2. “The matter”: The work of Jesus in our lives
3. **The story of how we came to know Jesus and how He’s made a difference in our lives**.

St. Paul’s Testimony and/or Lost Son’s Testimony: Luke 15:11-32

* His life before Jesus: Acts 22:3-5
* How He encountered Jesus: Acts 22:6-11
* What his life is like now that He lives for Jesus: Acts 22:12-21

How do I figure out my testimony?

Three Minutes:

1. What was my life like before I knew Jesus? (Where did I find happiness, what did I think about/do, what did I love most and did these things really bring happiness?) Give specific examples.
2. How did I come to know Jesus? Who helped me? What opened my mind/heart? Did I struggle with really walking the walk and not just saying I was living for Jesus? Why did I want Jesus in my life?
3. What is my life like now that I know Jesus and have decided to live for Him/follow Him? (Did I give anything up? Have I changed any habits? How/When do I pray?) Give specific examples of how God has changed your life.