



Statement of Faith Writing Guide

There are multiple ways to write a Statement of Faith. A Statement of Faith is a simple, written story of how a student understands salvation, and how that student knows he/she has received salvation and entered into a relationship with Jesus.

As part of our Confirmation experience, Mt. Horeb students will be required to write their own Statements of Faith. They will then share those Statements with their Mentors, who will affirm that the students have a solid understanding of salvation, and have begun relationships with Jesus. Once those Statements have been affirmed by the Mentors, the students are then cleared to complete the Confirmation process. **Statements of Faith are due no later than Sunday, March 7.**

Pro Tips

The following are several tips to consider as students work on their Statements of Faith:

- **Don't begin by thinking,** *"How long does the Statement have to be?"* It should be as long as it takes to tell the story. As a rule of thumb, four to five paragraphs should be enough to articulate one's Statement of Faith.
- **Be honest and real;** don't worry about saying the right or wrong thing. The Statement of Faith is not graded; rather it is an opportunity to express what you believe about Jesus, and the impact He has had on your life.
- **Be reflective.** Students should take some time to consider whether Jesus has impacted their lives. If He has, students should write about that using the prompts below. If a student is not sure He has had an impact, he/she should discuss that further with a Mentor.

Writing Prompts

Students' Statements of Faith should include: **My Faith Story**, and **Key Faith Questions**. Students should type out their Statements of Faith and provide copies for their Mentors.

- **Faith Story:** When writing the Faith Story, use at least one paragraph for each of the following three prompts below. See Sample Faith Story.
 - **Before Meeting Jesus:** What was your life like before you began a relationship with Jesus? Don't focus on the sin; rather, focus on where your life was headed without Jesus. Even if you began such a relationship at a very early age and have a hard time remembering back that far, share about where you think your life would have headed had you not met Jesus.
 - **Meeting Jesus:** What was going on in your life that caused you to meet Jesus? How did you ask Jesus to be the leader of your life? Was there a person(s) who helped you understand who Jesus was? If so, what did they say/do to help you?
 - **After Meeting Jesus:** How did your life change after you began a relationship with Jesus? What things did you start and/or stop doing to build a stronger relationship with Him? How have others helped you in your walk with Jesus? How have you pointed others toward a relationship with Jesus?
- **Key Faith Questions:** Write two or three sentences about each of the following:
 - What does confirmation mean to you?
 - How do people know you are a Christian?
 - What does baptism mean to you?
 - Share a Bible story or Bible verse that is special to you? How has the story or verse helped you to grow in your walk with Jesus?
 - How do you see yourself living out your faith in the future?
 - Where do you need help from God to have your faith grow?

Remember that faith is a lifelong journey. This Statement of Faith is not meant to be a final document; rather, a kind of journal entry in your lifelong journey of faith as you prepare for the ceremony of Confirmation. Once submitted, Mentors will read and then discuss the Statements with their students and will affirm that students are ready to be confirmed.

Sample Faith Story

Before Meeting Jesus: My parents were very religious and took my brothers and sisters and me to church every time the doors were open. Church was cool enough because we went bowling, skiing and ice skating. It was fun to be part of the church youth group. But even though I was not a rebellious kid, God and His church did not mean anything to me. I was very involved: attending services, helping elderly people, singing in the choir—even memorizing verses—but I did not internalize anything. I had a sense of right and wrong that I had gained from my mom and dad and the church and really didn't desire things that were considered "bad." But it wasn't because I was trying to please God. It just seemed to make sense. I reasoned with myself, "Those things can hurt you and ruin your life. Why would anyone want to do that?" I was living life on my own and I thought I was doing fine.

Meeting Jesus: But when I was twelve, my Sunday School leader shared with me from the Bible about who God is and who I am. For the first time I understood how holy God is and how I was just the opposite—doing my own thing in my own way—and not meeting up to God's standard of holiness. However, I knew that my thoughts and the things I did when people weren't looking were not pure. I saw that I was destined for hell in that state and this upset me quite a bit. The fact that my personal attitude and actions were what was offensive to God upset me even more—to the point of tears. But I also learned that night that Jesus died on the cross and that if I would put my trust in Him, I would receive life from God. And that is exactly what happened.

After Meeting Jesus: When I changed my mind, quit trying to make it on my own, and depended on Jesus Christ and His work on the cross, God changed my whole life and how I looked at life. I began to experience joy and purpose in life. Now I want to serve Him while I can in gratitude for all that He did for me, and I am eagerly anticipating life with God in heaven. I have continued being involved in church and youth group, but I have also started inviting my friends to attend with me, and trying to share with them how God has made a difference in me.