

YOUTH BECOMING LEADERS

High School Christian Leadership and Global Transformation Institute

RECEIVING SERVICE LITURGY

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A liturgy intended to be performed after a Missions Event by the pastor or youth pastor, the student, parents, and congregation.

Pastor Introduction: At the beginning of the summer, we sent ____ off to *location* for the *Event Name*. We committed as a congregation and a church family to support, encourage, challenge, celebrate, and guide them. Their mentor, _____, committed to be a listening ear and to advise them to the best of their ability as they discern their call to ministry. Their parents committed to holding them accountable and to guiding and loving them in the next phase of life as they look to the future. _____ committed to surrender in service to Christ, to being open to the work of the Holy Spirit, and to intentionally seeking growth through this opportunity to come back and lead better in this community. At this time, I'd like to invite _____ up to share some with us about the experience.

Student: **We ask that the church make space for the student to share about their personal experience at the camp, as well as share about their ministry project, either briefly or in depth. This may be a time to create congregation buy-in. Approx. 5- 7 minutes**

Pastor to Parents: Parents, sometimes it can be hard to see our children in different lights. It is a joyous and sometimes bewildering thing to see God working in our children's lives. Even more so when that child may be sensing a call to serve God in ministry. Will you listen to their stories and ask them vulnerable questions about what God is doing in their lives? Will you pour out grace on them when they fall into old ways of being, and hold them in love to a higher calling of service to God and to others? Will you walk with them and pray for them as they discern the path that God has them on?

Parents: With God's help, we will choose grace. We will celebrate the work that God has done in his/her life and hold them accountable to lived out devotion to Christ. We will do our best to model this for them and to walk in faith together as a family. We will trust God with our child's life, with their future, their calling. We will trust that He is caring for them and leading them, and that he loves them dearly.

Pastor, to the congregation: When a young person experiences God in a mighty way, it can be easy for us to let it pass by or dismiss it as youthful passion. As a church body, will you receive our student back with open arms and an intuitive heart? Will you ask them about their experience, and commit to helping them live as the young leader that God has called them to be?

Congregation: With God's help, we will hold them up when they get tired. We will protect them from the storm. We will guide them when they get lost. We will follow Christ. He will lead us. We will listen to their stories with a joyful heart, and offer working hands and encouraging spirits. We will not diminish the work that God has done, but instead we will fan the flames of excitement and hope in the Lord.

Pastor: We'd like to take this time to pray over _____.

God, we belong to you. You have given us wonderful gifts. You have called us to be prophets, preachers, thinkers, artists and leaders. We will answer that call. We will take the gifts you've given us, and we will use them for your good. We thank you for the ways that you have shaped the gifts of _____, and the way that you have used this experience to make _____ more confident in who you have called them to be. Help us to push them along in that growth, to surround them with love, to offer our support in word and action. Continue to open their eyes to the needs of those around them, and fill them with love and ingenuity to meet those needs. Use _____ to bring your light into dark places of the world, now and in the next season of their life. *Amen.*