

Beyond VN

Scripture Ref: I Peter 3:8-17

Speaker & Length Youth, 15 Minutes

Progression Finally, we are to be gentle in spreading the message of Jesus with others. Our hearts may be burning with love, but we will not have to shout about this – all will see it. “Spread the Gospel wherever you go, and when necessary, use words.”

Purpose This talk prepares the candidates for re-entry into the "real world". They have encountered Christ in a potentially life changing experience, and the sharing of this experience and the rekindling of faith with family and friends should be done with great sensitivity. It is very likely that many people in their environment may not have had such a powerful encounter with Christ. Candidates must be careful not to turn them off. This talk should also list future VN events for growth and sharing such as reunion groups, VN Council, future Candle lightings, etc. Sharing of the speaker's personal experience is helpful to the candidates.

Introduction

This talk prepares the candidates for re-entry into the "real world". They have encountered Christ in a potentially life changing experience, and the sharing of this experience should be done with great sensitivity.

I. Re-meeting Family

Although the parents have been informed by mail of what is involved in VN, nevertheless, they may not be prepared for the return of the "prodigal child" full of eagerness to convince them that the only way to celebrate the reunion is with guitars and hand clapping. Discuss VN but don't be overpowering.

II. Re-meeting Friends

The real danger is coming on too strong. Don't try to force them into making VN. It is actions (especially lasting actions) rather than words that will most influence them.

III. The first three days

- A. Cover some highlights from the things that we have experienced on the VN weekend (such as letters, good food, sharing at tables, etc.).
- B. Point out that we have been living under ideal conditions, obviously in a supportive Christian community.
- C. Remind the candidates that when they go home, nothing will have changed except them. Their "fourth day" will contain obstacles.

IV. The Fourth Day - Obstacles will arise, but they can be overcome!

A. Share a time when....

1. Someone or some group didn't understand you, or when you felt down and alone.
2. You remembered your new relationship with Jesus.

B. VN's success is measured by how you respond to your world and affect your world tomorrow. You have the support of all those you see here and all those who have attended VN before. Get together, stay in contact, and support each other.

V. Future VN Functions

The VN weekend is a special encounter with Christ. In order to make this encounter more lasting and meaningful, there are certain follow up activities which help to recharge and revitalize the VN community. Stress the importance of attendance at the reunions, "gatherings", (especially the one for this specific VN), and future candle lighting. Also point out the need for Palanca for future VN weekends. The monthly newsletter will give dates and other information. Local reunions will be set up at various times and attendance at these should be encouraged.

A group exists called the VN Council. They are responsible for the VN Community. One of the positions on the Council is the Post-Weekend or Fourth Day Couple. They schedule reunions, picnics, etc. They also will help you get in touch with other VN community members at your school or church. The people in that position now are _____ and their phone number is _____. If you have ideas for a fun thing or would like to find out if anyone else at your school has been to VN...give them a call.

VI. The Surprise Element

This aspect is an intimate part of the VN weekend and when talking to prospective candidates, it may be best to discuss the weekend in generalities rather than the specifics. For example, palanca and serenade are best experienced when candidates don't expect that it's coming. Do not bring potential candidates to candlelightings or gatherings.

VII. Team and VN Council

If any of the candidates are interested in being team members on future VNs, let _____ (name of Leaders Person on Council) or _____ (name of next Director) know.

You will get a newsletter about every month. The names of the rest of the Council members are frequently listed. Feel free to give any of them a call. They are there to serve you.

VIII. Service Cards

Hand out the Service Cards and briefly discuss the questions. Point out that the order of the questions is important...Jesus, Others, Yourself (JOY).