

Reaffirmation of Christian Commitment Upon Turning Sixteen

Since so many students begin to drop out of church after they turn sixteen, we have begun to give students an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment upon their sixteen birthdays as the worship service. Here are the basic facts:

- This is part of the worship service.
- It comes early in the order of service, and is brief.
- It is kind of like a Parent-Child Dedication in format.
- This is a self-dedication, carefully thought-out and deliberately chosen. Sort of like a rededication without having to go to the trouble of getting into sin first.
- Students may have parents stand with them.
- A favorite verse may be shared, or something along that line to personalize the moment.
- This is voluntary – not every student will choose to participate (and we wouldn't want some students up there making a mockery of this commitment time).
- Students are informed, but are expected to take the initiative to make arrangements for their commitment Sunday. They or their parents must call the church office to schedule their reaffirmation.

Letter Sent to Students Who Will Turn Sixteen During the Year Sent at the First of the Year

Dear NAME,

This year, we are beginning something new at First Baptist. We are offering those who turn sixteen during the year the opportunity to publically reaffirm their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. With increased independence – and the all-important driver’s license – this is the point many people crash and burn spiritually. This provides you an opportunity to think through how you will live and make deliberate choices concerning how you will live from your later teen-years forward. Some were saved very young and this gives them the opportunity to reaffirm their Christian commitment at a more mature level.

Here are the Five Promises of Reaffirmation:

1. I received Jesus in (year) when I was (age); I reaffirm my personal commitment to Christ and will continue to grow in my relationship with Him.
2. I will responsibly use the new freedom that comes with a driver’s license to go only to the places I ought to go.
3. I commit myself to the Lord’s church. I will be faithful in attendance and will set an example in the youth group.
4. I promise not waste my life, but to use it for the glory of Jesus Christ. Regardless of my career, I will seek to advance the cause of the Gospel.
5. I promise to maintain the dream of a Christian home—recommitting my dating life to the Lord, refusing to settle for less than a committed Christian husband/wife, and reaffirm my commitment to sexual purity until then.

This will be part of the worship service, come early in the order of service, and be brief – kind of like a Parent-Child Dedication. However, this is a self-dedication. You may involve your parents by having them stand with you if you like. This is voluntary – not every student will choose to participate (and we wouldn’t want some students up there making a mockery of this commitment time). However, as your birthday is coming up, you can call the church office to schedule your reaffirmation of Christian commitment. I will be glad to talk with you and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Wording for Worship Service
A Reaffirmation of Your Faith and Commitment
Upon Your Sixteenth Birthday

This is FIRST AND LAST NAME who turned sixteen this past DAY, DATE. NAMES's favorite verse is REFERENCE:

VERSE

FIRST NAME is here today to publically reaffirm HIS/HER Christian commitment.

The Five Promises of Reaffirmation:

1. NAME, you received Jesus in YEAR when you were seven; do you reaffirm your commitment to Christ and will you continue to grow in your personal relationship with Him?
2. NAME, will you responsibly use the new freedom that comes with a driver's license and go to only those places you ought to go?
3. NAME, do you commit yourself to the Lord's church, promising to be faithful in attendance and to set an example in the youth group?
4. NAME, do you promise not waste your life, but to use it for the glory of Jesus Christ, and regardless of your career, to seek to advance the cause of the Gospel?
5. And NAME, do you promise to maintain the dream of a Christian home—recommitting your dating life to the Lord, refusing to settle for less than a committed Christian HUSBAND/WIFE, and reaffirming your commitment to sexual purity until then?

Church Dropout Study: LifeWay Research

Warning: Links may become out of date with time.

- [Reasons 18 to 22 Year Olds Drop Out of Church](#)
Results from a recent LifeWay Research study uncover reasons 70% of young adults stop attending church for at least a year between ages 18 to 22.
- [Parents, Churches Can Help Teens Stay in Church](#)
Comparisons of teens who stay in church and those who drop out reveal several things that parents and churches can do to encourage more teens to stay in church.
- [Church Dropout Study Podcast Part 1](#)
- [Church Dropout Study Podcast Part 2](#)
Listen as Dr. Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research, and Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, discuss the study results.
- **PowerPoint:** [Church Dropouts How Many Leave Church and Why](#)
(PC users right-click on link and select Save Target As to download PowerPoint file to your computer. MAC users should control-click to save the PowerPoint file to their desktops.)
- **PowerPoint:** [Teen Influences on Church Dropouts](#)
(PC users right-click on link and select Save Target As to download PowerPoint file to your computer. MAC users should control-click to save the PowerPoint file to their desktops.)
- **PowerPoint:** [Church Dropouts Faces of Young Adults Ages 18 22](#)
(PC users right-click on link and select Save Target As to download PowerPoint file to your computer. MAC users should control-click to save the PowerPoint file to their desktops.)

Viewpoints on the Church Dropout Study

- [Podcast Interview with Youth Transition Network Executive Director Jeff Schadt](#)
- [Podcast Interview LifeWay Collegiate Ministries Director Linda Osborne](#)
- [Viewpoint Dropout Study Illustrates the Great Opportunity We Have](#)
Jim Johnston, director of young adult ministry at LifeWay, shares his opinion of the study results.
- [Viewpoint Lost In Transition](#)
Mark Lydecker, Collegiate Evangelism Director at the North American Mission Board, reflects on the study.