Witnesses of His Love

Program Planning Suggestions

Basic Instructions

The monologues (short speeches made to an audience) in the script are meant to be performed by the young women. Songs can be performed by a soloist or small group of people with vocal ability. Young women are not required to perform the songs, unless they have special interest in it. Throughout the script, a monologue is performed about a specific Young Women value, followed by a song about the same value, until all of the values have been represented. There are 7 monologues and songs. One of the songs ("What Heaven Sees in You") embodies two values: *Divine Nature* and *Individual Worth*. At the end of the program, the young women and leaders sing "Witnesses of His Love."

Music

Young Women leaders and their young women do **not** need to be musical to put on this program. It is recommended that you assign your Young Women Music Leader (if you have one) to choose each singer from your ward (anyone who has the ability) and work with them separately on the songs. This will allow the Music Leader to work on her own time instead of during mutual nights. If you do not have a Young Women Music Leader, you might seek assistance from your Ward Music Specialist or Choir Director.

Where to Find the Music

The songs in the script are from Doug Walker's album, "What Heaven Sees in You." The album is available for purchase online. Visit www.whatheavenseesinyou.com and select Music Store. Other online resources include an MP3 album, performance tracks (songs without vocals to accompany performances), and sheet music.

Monologues

The monologues are to be performed by 7 different young women. They may either memorize them or read them from paper. They may use props (for example, an apple or a book) if you would like. Leaders should work with the young women on their monologues in order to help them with the performance. Assistance with body language, facial expressions, volume, pacing, pronunciation, and annunciation should be provided.

Blue-Text Section of the Monologue

The blue-text section allows young women to share their own Personal Progress or personal experiences about each Young Women value. The young women are meant to write 1-2 short paragraphs about their experiences and must approve it with a Young Women leader. Leaders should help each young woman arrange her comments to fit well within the rest of the monologue so that the blue-text and the black-text all appear to be one thought. Leaders may encourage young women to answer the blue-text questions in complete sentences, which may help their comments flow with the rest of the monologue. The blue-text section works well for *Young Women in Excellence* since it is meant to showcase young woman Personal Progress experiences from the year. If you are using this program for *New Beginnings*,

you may decide to take the blue-text sections out of the monologues. The monologues will still work without young women's comments.

Planning

The program is fairly simple, but early planning can make the event more meaningful for those involved. If using for Young Women in Excellence: Encouraging young women to choose a Personal Progress Value Project to work on early in the year will help them to immerse themselves in that value and develop a testimony of it, which can be shared in the blue-text section of the monologues.

Choosing a Project

During the last Sunday of the month when the young women meet with Relief Society for Opening Exercises, have a Young Women leader talk to the mothers and young women briefly about choosing a 10-hour value project to work on during the year that they want to share at *Young Women in Excellence*. Tell them that you will need to know what value/project they choose and that you will be asking them at a future date. Ask parents to assist their daughters in choosing a project, if needed. If the situation requires, you may choose to talk with a young woman's father instead of her mother.

Form

Create a form, similar to the sample below, and have the young women fill them out. The answers on their forms will help you decide which monologues to assign to which young women. Once you have assigned the monologues to the young women, give them a copy of the monologue and ask them to write answers to the questions in the blue-text portion. Once they have returned their comments, leaders should help the comments to flow with the rest of the monologue. The young women may then begin practicing the finished monologue on their own and eventually with a leader.

Rehearsing (for Young Women in Excellence and New Beginnings)

Plan times to meet individually with and help each of the young women who will be presenting a monologue. You may choose to assign a leader to each young woman or have one leader in charge of all of monologues. Once the young women feel comfortable with their monologues, you may want to hold a rehearsal where all of the young women perform their monologues. Next, hold a dress rehearsal where each of the young women performs her monologue <u>and</u> all of the singers perform their songs. Make sure everyone is aware of what will happen before their part so that they know their cues. After the dress rehearsal, you will be ready for *Young Women in Excellence*.

Practicing the Last Song

In preparation for the performance, you may want to practice the event's closing song, "Witnesses of His Love," as your practice song during regular Young Women opening exercises.

Other

Parts

You will likely not have enough parts for each of the young women. For those who are not assigned monologues, you may give them other assignments such as providing opening and closing prayers, leading the opening song, or asking everyone to stand for recitation of the Young Women theme.

Additional Ideas

During the song "What Heaven Sees in You," you could purchase or create a video presentation with pict ures of the young women at their baby blessings and baptisms, as well as temple-marriage pictures of Y oung Women leaders. You could use this as a slideshow while "What Heaven Sees in You" is sung. A free video production is available at http://www.whatheavenseesinyou.com/free-stuff.htm. To get this video customized visit: http://www.whatheavenseesinyou.com/customDVD

You may want to have the young women giving the monologues and the singers wear the colors of the value they are representing. For example, the young woman giving the *Integrity* monologue would wear purple and so would the soloist.

Themes

General youth themes, ward themes, and scriptures can be incorporated throughout the program. You can personalize the program for your ward's focus or toward the current year's youth theme.

Questions

For questions about the **music**, please contact Doug Walker by visiting http://www.whatheavenseesinyou.com/ContactUs.htm

For questions about the script or for additional ideas, please contact Angie Staheli: angie@staheli.org

Please post your ward's experiences with producing "Witnesses of His Love" at http://www.whatheavenseesinyou.com/share-ideas.htm

YOUNG WOMEN IN EXCELLENCE PROJECT PLAN

Name:	Email Address (if you use it often):
Please describe your	10-Hour Personal Progress Project:
Which Young Wome	n Value (examples: Faith, Integrity) does your project fall under?
Would you be willing in Excellence?	to share what you learned while working on your project during Young Women
***Please prepare to	finish your 10-hour project by Sunday, October 3 rd .
	N IN EXCELLENCE PROJECT PLAN Email Address (if you use it often):
Please describe your	10-Hour Personal Progress Project:
Which Young Wome	n Value (examples: Faith, Integrity) does your project fall under?
Would you be willing in Excellence?	to share what you learned while working on your project during Young Women
***Please prepare to	finish your 10-hour project by Sunday, October 3 rd .

Witnesses of His Love

A Program Especially for Young Women

Music and Lyrics by Doug and Sherry Walker Script Written by Angie Staheli

PROGRAM SAMPLE

Welcome Laurel President

Opening Song At the discretion of the Young Women Presidency

Opening Prayer By invitation

YW Theme The Young Women

You may want to assign to each girl a specific part of the theme to recite for

added emphasis, or have the young women say the theme in unison.

Opening Remarks Young Women President

Topic: Becoming a Witness of His Love through living all of the Young Women values. You may want to include the definition of "witness" and talk about the words of the Young Women Theme. You can incorporate the Church's youth theme for the year as

well as your own ward theme, tied in with becoming a Witness of His Love.

Musical Program The Young Women and Vocalists

Closing Remarks At the discretion of the Young Women Presidency

Closing Song "Witnesses of His Love" by Young Women and Leaders

Closing Prayer By invitation

FAITH MONOLOGUE

Most of us hold on to something that keeps us from moving forward. We may be holding on to the past, our fears, our sins, or our weaknesses. We may be holding on to our possessions or even holding onto our doubts. We carry the weight of these upon our backs, afraid to let them go.

It takes faith to give our burdens to the Lord and trust in Him. He can heal the past and help us conquer our fears. He atoned for our sins and can make our weaknesses become strengths. He can give us the courage to let go of the world and follow Him instead. He has the ability to turn our doubts into faith.

(Young Woman: Please choose one of the following items to write about in 1-2 paragraphs. After it is approved by your Young Women leader, insert your words here.

1.) Share a Personal Progress Faith Experience or Value Project. What did you do for your experience or project? How did it make you feel? How was your faith strengthened?

2.) Sacrifice is defined as "the act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else more important or worthy." What is one sacrifice you had to make this year that required faith? Why did you decide to make that sacrifice? Why was your sacrifice important? How was your faith strengthened? In what ways were you blessed? How was the sacrifice worth it?)

The Lord asks us to let go of what we hold on to, with faith that He knows what's best. Isn't it worth giving up *anything* in exchange for what He has in store for us?

NEXT: "FAITH" SONG

or

SONG: FAITH

When Faith was smaller, she had a treasure

Made just for little girls;

Though made of plastic, she loved to wear them,

Her own strand of shiny pearls.

Faith had a father, kind and gentle,

How he loved his little girl;

One night at bedtime he asked her,

"Will you give me your pearls?"

"Oh, no, not my pearls," Faith said,

How about my teddy instead?"

"Your Daddy loves you – it's okay;"

And with a kiss, he tucked in, his little Faith.

As Faith grew, now and then he'd ask her

To give him her precious pearls,

And though she loved him she couldn't give up

Her favorite thing in this world.

Until one night, she said through her tears

"Daddy, these are for you."

As she let go of her little treasure,

He was crying too

As he took her worn, plastic pearls,

Around her neck he placed

A beautiful strand of genuine pearls

He had saved, just for, his sweet Faith.

With all this world may have in store

He waits with so much more

Your Father loves you, it's okay

To let go, of what you hold, with Faith.

DIVINE NATURE & INDIVIDUAL WORTH MONOLOGUE

When you look in the mirror, who do you see? A girl with low confidence? An imperfect body shape? A flawed face? Someone who is not very smart or funny, without any impressive talents? Do you see a girl whose worth only comes from how she looks, how she dresses or how popular she is?

Now look again, but this time, with different eyes. How would someone who really knows and loves you look at you? Would they see who you *really* are and who you can become? That is how the Lord sees you.

We tend to label ourselves and others in negative ways. We often forget who we are, where we came from and our divine potential.

(Young Woman: Please choose one of the following items to write about in 1-2 paragraphs. Please answer all of the questions in order. After it is approved by your Young Women leader, insert your words in this section of the monologue.

- 1.) Share a Personal Progress Divine Nature or Individual Worth Experience or Value Project. What did you do for your experience or project? How did it make you feel? How did it change the way you look at yourself and others? Compare the way that you sometimes think of yourself and others with the way that the Lord thinks of you.
- 2.) Write about a personal experience where you learned the importance of recognizing your own Divine Nature or Individual Worth. What happened? What did you learn from the experience? How can the knowledge of who you are and where you came from influence the choices you make? Compare the way that you sometimes think of yourself and others with the way that the Lord thinks of you.)

If we labeled ourselves correctly, what would our labels say? I think mine would read, "Product Name: <u>Insert Young Woman's Name</u> (example: Mariah), Daughter of God. Price: Of Infinite Worth. Contents: Divine qualities, with Divine potential. Created by: A loving Heavenly Father.

The world may label us otherwise, but only the Divine Manufacturer can accurately label his creation. We may not always recognize what is within us, but the Lord sees us through different eyes. Do you have eyes to see what Heaven sees in *you*?

NEXT: "WHAT HEAVEN SEES IN YOU" SONG

SONG: WHAT HEAVEN SEES IN YOU

Sent to this earth

You were saved through the ages for this day and time

Child of great worth

Child of promise, daughter of the Divine

Pure and holy in a little, white dress

You were held in a circle and you were blessed

And the Father looked down

And the angels surrounded that place

They knew the truth--all that you could do

And you will, too, if you have eyes to see

What heaven sees in you

Dressed in white once more

Making promises to follow in God's way

So much lies in store

For the little girl who enters at the gate

Pure and holy in a little, white dress

You were led into the water and you were blessed

Repeat Chorus

Do you understand who you are

Part of the Father lives in you

If you continue on this path

Every promise God has given will come true

Heaven on earth

In the house of God, so much fills your heart and mind

Woman of great worth

Woman of promise, daughter of the Divine

Pure and holy in a long, white dress

You promise forever and you are blessed

And the Father looks down

And the angels surround that place

They know the truth--all that you can do

And you do, too, 'cause you have eyes to see

What heaven sees in you

Will you have eyes to see

What heaven see in you

KNOWLEDGE MONOLOGUE

The most important knowledge we can possess is our testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But it usually doesn't come all at once. We have to start with the things we know, then put forth the effort and trust the Lord to help us with the missing pieces.

It's like putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle without having a picture of what the finished product should look like. With hundreds of pieces to arrange, it's best to start with the easy parts, like the border pieces of a puzzle. Usually the simple parts of our testimony come first too. The knowledge that there is a God and that He made everything forms the framework of our testimony.

Next, come the trickier pieces that begin to shape the image of the puzzle – like the knowledge that your prayers are heard and having the faith to keep the commandments, even though you can't see how everything will work out. Once those pieces come together, the picture of the puzzle becomes much clearer.

Last come the difficult parts, like a tedious section of a puzzle. The hard parts of gaining a testimony are the ones that require the most faith and obedience, especially when we're going through a difficult trial. But if we keep working on putting together the puzzle, one piece of our testimony at a time, despite distractions, frustrations or doubts, our knowledge of the truth will increase.

(Young Woman: Please choose one of the following items to write about in 1-2 paragraphs. Please answer all of the questions in order. After it is approved by your Young Women leader, insert your words in this section of the monologue.

- 1.) Share a Personal Progress Knowledge Experience or Value Project that increased your gospel knowledge. What did you do for your experience or project? How did it make you feel? How has your knowledge and testimony of the gospel changed? Why is it important to continually increase a testimony? What should someone do if a trial makes them doubt their testimony? or
- 2.) Write about a personal experience when your Knowledge of the gospel was tested. How did you handle it? How did you develop a testimony about that principle? Did prayer and scripture study help? What should someone do if a trial makes them doubt their testimony?)

Trials are going to come and it's easy to doubt what is real in this life. That's the time when I need to hold on to my testimony the most. That's when I need to hold onto the things that I do know. And the Lord will help piece together the rest.

NEXT: "THE THINGS I KNOW" SONG

SONG: THE THINGS I KNOW

I know little babies come from heaven

I know God made those tiny hands and hearts

I know rainbows and roses are no accident

Neither are the sun, the moon, and stars

So when I doubt

When there are things in life I just can't figure out

I trust that God is in control

And I hold on to the things I know

I know death is not the end of my soul

I know something divine lies in us all

I know there is someone watching over me

I know my prayers are heard beyond these walls

So when I doubt

When there are things in life I just can't figure out

I trust that God is in control

And I hold on to the things I know

What good is a test if all the answers are there in front of you

Some things take faith I know that's true

I know a little baby came from Heaven

The promise of the whole human race

I know nothing else can hold a candle

To His power, His mercy, and His grace

So when I doubt

When there are things in life I just can't figure out

I'll trust that He is in control

And I'll hold on to the things I know

I'll hold on, hold on to the things I know

CHOICE & ACCOUNTABILITY MONOLOGUE

(Young Woman carries an apple) If you planted an apple seed in the ground, you'd expect to grow an apple tree, wouldn't you? An apple seed could never grow into a watermelon plant or a rhubarb bush, only an apple tree. Likewise, a patch of weeds could never expect to grow a tree that bears fruit...it would only continue to grow weeds.

The most basic rule of farming is that you plant what you want to produce. It's also a basic rule of the gospel, referred to as The Law of the Harvest. You will always reap what you sow. Choices work the same way. If we want to live blessed and fruitful lives, we need to make righteous choices. Or, like the patch of weeds, we can make careless, poor choices and our end result will be an unhappy, unfruitful life.

(Young Woman: Please choose one of the following items to write about in 1-2 paragraphs. Please answer all of the questions in order. After it is approved by your Young Women leader, insert your words in this section of the monologue.

1.) Share a Personal Progress Choice & Accountability Experience or Value Project. What did you do for your experience or project? What did it teach you about the importance of making correct choices? Why has the First Presidency given us the "For Strength of Youth" manual? Why is it important to follow the guidelines within it? What does "you reap what you sow" mean to you?

or

2.) Write about a personal experience where you learned the importance of making good choices. What happened? What did you learn from the experience? What advice can you give to a young woman who is struggling to make a correct choice? What does "you reap what you sow" mean to you?)

Each choice we make – whether good or bad, is like a seed. The seeds we plant will determine what fruits we produce or who we will become. Our spiritual harvest is based on how we live our lives each day.

NEXT: "WHAT I'VE BECOME" SONG

SONG: WHAT I'VE BECOME

A farmer spends his day plowing rows and planting seeds

And come October he knows what will grow

It's been that way since time began and it will never change

You will always reap just what you sow

My life is made of seeds

Every one I plant becomes part of me

Good or bad ones, I must choose

And I should think about the future when I do

'Cause when the harvest finally comes

I will reap what I've become

Have you ever seen a tapestry a priceless work of art

And seen how every color plays a role

Every thread is woven carefully into its proper place

Until the masterpiece is finally whole

My life is made of threads

Every one I sew should be my best

Good or bad ones, I must choose

And I should think about the future when I do

'Cause when the tapestry is done

My masterpiece will be what I've become

I will stand before the Savior when this life comes to an end

Will the seeds I've sown have made me more like Him

My life is made of seeds

Every one I plant becomes part of me

Good or bad ones, I must choose

And I should think about the future when I do

'Cause when the harvest finally comes

I will reap what I've become

GOOD WORKS MONOLOGUE

If Jesus went to your school or lived in your neighborhood, what would He do every day? How would He act? Who would He befriend? How would He serve others? What would be His priorities?

All of His actions would be selfless and for the good of those around Him. Jesus is the ultimate example of Good Works. He lived and lost His life in service.

I've been working on losing myself in service...

(Young Woman: Please choose one of the following items to write about in 1-2 paragraphs. Please answer all of the questions in order. After it is approved by your Young Women leader, insert your words in this section of the monologue.

1.) Share a Personal Progress Good Works Experience or Value Project. What did you do for your experience or project? How did it make you feel? How is Jesus the ultimate example of Good Works?

or

2.) Write about a personal experience where you performed service for someone. What happened? How did it make you feel? Why did Jesus spend his life serving others? Why should we? How did this experience increase your love for others and your love for the Savior?)

Jesus wants us to follow His life's example and to act as He would, if He were here. We are His hands at our schools. We are His hands in our neighborhoods. We are His hands at our church. We are His hands on the earth. He wants us to use our hands to lift others, reach out and love one another.

NEXT: "JESUS WOULD, WOULD I?" SONG

SONG: JESUS WOULD, WOULD I? If there were just one in a hundred souls Who found themselves far from the fold If the way to their rescue was rough and unsure And staying behind would be easier Who would go to save them or be willing to try Jesus would, would I If there were someone who needed a friend Who was different than most, never seemed to fit in But it would mean taking time I could use for myself And it would be easier left to someone else Who would take them in who would take the time Jesus would, would I Is there any doubt what He would do If the one in need were me or you Jesus would give his life All over again In the blink of an eye If I were in his shoes would I If I were asked to spend all my days Loving my neighbor walking in God's ways And if sometimes that road was lonely and long And the burdens I carried made it hard to go on Would I stay on the path all my life Jesus Would Jesus did. Will I?

INTEGRITY MONOLOGUE

Imagine living in a world where no one needed to lock their doors; where products and companies could be trusted to do what they claimed; a place where jails sat empty; a world free from war and contention; where everyone paid their bills and kept their commitments; a place where no harm was ever intentionally done. This is what the world would be like if everyone had integrity.

There would be no need for security cameras, car alarms, padlocks, electric fences, password protection. Infidelity would no longer happen. Child abductions and identity theft would never occur. Lie detector tests and airport security lines would be a thing of the past. Newscasters would find more good news to report. People would trust each other and be trustworthy.

Integrity is difficult to define in one word, because it means so many things. (*Read slowly*) Having integrity includes being reliable, keeping your word, being honest to others and honest to yourself. It means having the courage to do what is right, regardless of the consequences. It is fulfilling your financial and personal obligations. Integrity is standing as a witness of God at all times and in all things and in all places.

I've been trying to "stand as a witness of God" this past year by... (Young Woman: Finish this sentence)

(Young Woman: Please choose one of the following items to write about in 1-2 paragraphs. Please answer all of the questions in order. After it is approved by your Young Women leader, insert your words in this section of the monologue.

- 1.) Share a Personal Progress Integrity Experience or Value Project. What did you do for your experience or project? How did it make you feel? How was your testimony of integrity strengthened? Why do you want to be a person of integrity?
- 2.) Write about a personal experience where your integrity was tested and you stood firm. What happened? What made you decide to make the right choice? What advice do you have for someone in a similar situation? How has this experience changed you? Why do you want to be a person of integrity?)

I know that I am only one person striving to develop integrity, but even one person can make a difference. I choose to be someone with integrity.

NEXT: "INTEGRITY" SONG

SONG: INTEGRITY

Put me in a cell with walls made out of stone

Behind bars of steel and leave me there alone

Find a desert isle and leave me there at sea

There still might be a way to escape and be set free, but

Draw a circle all around me

And have me give my word never to step out

Once you had my word of honor

I could never cross no--I would be bound

That's who I choose to be

Someone with integrity

Once I had a friend ask me to cross the line

Said that I should bend just this one time

It tested my resolve wasn't easy to resist

But something deep inside reminded me of this

There is a circle all around me

And I gave my word never to step out

I will keep my word of honor

I will never cross yes--I am bound

That's who I choose to be

Someone with integrity

I choose to be

Someone with integrity

VIRTUE MONOLOGUE

When was the last time you went camping? After hiking, swimming, exploring and getting dirty, didn't it feel nice to go home and finally take a shower? Scrubbing off the dirt and becoming clean is a great feeling. Being clean gives you peace, confidence and helps you to feel comfortable. Living virtuously in thought and action provides the same feelings.

(Young Woman: Please choose one of the following items to write about in 1-2 paragraphs. Please answer all of the questions in order. After it is approved by your Young Women leader, insert your words in this section of the monologue.

1.) Share a Personal Progress Virtue Experience or Value Project. What did you do for your experience or project? What does Virtue mean to you? Why is living virtuously **now** important for your future?

If you read the Book of Mormon for your project, what did it teach you about virtue? Describe your experience. Why is living virtuously **now** important for your future?

2.) Describe someone you know who is a good example of a virtuous woman. How does her example make you want to live a virtuous life? Why does the Savior want us to be virtuous? Why is living virtuously **now** important for your future?

It's not by chance that the Personal Progress book has a temple on the cover (holds up Personal Progress book). One of the main purposes of the Personal Progress program is to prepare young women to make and keep sacred temple covenants. Imagine virtue as the large key that opens up the gorgeous temple doors. Virtue is essential for entrance into the temple. Each temple is dedicated as a house of the Lord, Jesus Christ, and in it, we can come closer to Him.

The Savior made virtue possible. Jesus' sacrifice in Gethsemane and on the cross provided the way for us to repent and be made pure. There is nothing more wonderful than scrubbing off the dirt of sin and becoming clean again. Living pure requires us to be committed to resisting temptation, keeping the commandments, living high moral standards and continual repentance. We are all imperfect and none of us can be virtuous without the Savior. With His help, we can live pure.

NEXT: "PURE" SONG

SONG: PURE

Pure as the driven snow Pure like a summer rain Pure as the sunlight

That falls from heaven to my face

Pure like the morning dew that touches the earth

Father I will live pure

Pure like a prophet's heart

Pure as a baby's eyes

Pure like a mother's love

Pure as someone just baptized

Pure like Thine only Son, my Savior

Father I will live pure

There in the garden he opened the door

So I could live pure

Musical Interlude

Pure like Thine only Son, my Savior

Father I will live pure

Father I will live pure

NEXT: "WITNESSES OF HIS LOVE" SONG performed by the Young Women

SONG: WITNESSES OF HIS LOVE (Young Women)

We are daughters of God

Called before the world began

He knows us by name and His Spirit is leading us

He sent us to earth to be witnesses of His love

We are sisters in Christ

And together we testify

That He is unfailing and worthy of all our trust

We have been blessed and are witnesses of His love

At all times, in all things

In all places that we may be in

Witnesses of His love

At all times, in all things

In all places that we may be in

Witnesses of His love

We are true to His name

And the price that He willingly paid

Giving His live and saving us one by one

Humbly we'll stand as witnesses of His love

We are daughters of God

Called before the world began