

Testimony Plants

By Maryssa Dennis
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(Based on a true story)

Elisa walked into Primary and sat by her friend Armando.

“Welcome!” Sister Russo said. “Let’s start with a song.”

Elisa sang with her class. “Faith is like a little seed: if planted, it will grow” (*Children’s Songbook*, 96).

Sister Russo passed out paper and crayons. “Think about what we sang,” she said. “When you plant your seed of faith, it grows into a testimony. Now draw what your testimony would look like if it were a plant.”

Elisa stared at her blank paper. She didn’t know what to draw. She peeked at the plant Armando was drawing. It had a straight stem with lots of leaves. It looked like the basil growing on her apartment balcony. Maybe that was what a testimony was supposed to look like! She used her crayon to draw one like his.

“Please open your scriptures to Alma 32,” Sister Russo said.

They read about planting a seed in your heart and feeling it grow. Elisa looked at her drawing and frowned. *Did* she have a testimony? What did that even mean? She wanted to ask, but she felt too shy.

When class ended, Elisa didn’t get up right away.

“Is everything OK?” Sister Russo asked.

Elisa glanced down at her drawing again. “I’m not sure I have a testimony. I don’t really know what that means.”



Sister Russo gave Elisa a kind smile. “That’s OK. Do you remember what faith is?”

Elisa nodded.

“Believing in something we can’t see?”

“That’s right!” Sister Russo said. “What are some things you believe in?”

That was an easy question. “I believe in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. I believe They love me.”

Sister Russo smiled. “You just shared your testimony! A testimony is what you have faith in.”

Elisa thought about it. “So I already have a testimony?”

“Yes!” Sister Russo held up her scriptures. “And remember what we read today? You nourish the seed by doing things like coming to church. Then your testimony will grow stronger.”

Elisa felt like she understood. “So that’s why we drew our testimonies as plants?”

“Exactly. Because plants grow little by little,” Sister Russo said. “Testimonies are the same way. They usually don’t come all at once. They grow a little at a time.”

Elisa felt better about her drawing. When she got home, she wrote “My Testimony Plant” above her picture. She hung it up by her bed. She knew her testimony was already growing. And she wanted to keep following Jesus so it could grow even bigger! ●

Growing Your Testimony

A testimony
is what you believe is true,
like "God loves me" or "Families
are forever."

Plants need
water and sunlight to
grow. Scriptures, prayer, and
church are like water and light for
your testimony.

Roots
make plants strong.
You can keep your testimony
strong by remembering Heavenly
Father and Jesus every day!

Like plants,
everyone's testimonies grow
at different speeds. Heavenly
Father is happy when your knowledge
grows even a little.