Testimony Coaching

How to coach someone to give their testimony for a group setting

What the coach should do:

Set up a meeting to hear their story in its entirety. We want to make sure they don't: over-share deep secrets they would regret sharing later; share too many facts and stories that dilute the power of their story; or miss important parts of their story that students would relate to.

During your time together, go through the structure of a good testimony (this is from "Telling Your Story"):

1. Life before Jesus entered the picture
2. Describe the journey toward Christ.
3. What happened when Jesus entered the picture?
4. What it has been like since Jesus did his transforming work?

Work together to find a common theme or a specific story that could anchor their sharing time - probably a specific area of their lives, i.e., their family, friendships/community, future ambitions, etc. They should be able to articulate the need they felt for Christ before and the felt change since before they leave their time with you. Encourage them also that this is a time for their story to speak for itself - they will not be preaching a message, rather sharing what God has powerfully done in their lives. Pray for them and for the people who will hear their story!

What the testimony giver should do:

Give them the "Telling Your Story" resource either through email before you meet or after you meet so they can have a framework to work through their story as they practice. Encourage them to practice their testimony within the time frame they're being given on stage so they are comfortable at show time!

The night they share:

If the student is sharing in a large group setting like Monday Night Live, have them arrive about 30 minutes early to check-in with how they're feeling and if they'd like to go over their testimony once more before sharing it. Make sure to give them final pointers about: where to sit, when they'll be sharing, getting on stage, holding the mic steady and close to their mouth, and to trust God to speak through them!