

HERE'S WHAT FORMER 8TH GRADERS SAY ABOUT SEASIDE EDGE FAITH FORMATION:

"8th grade Edge was a very personal experience. I learned a lot about God while also being able to relate it to life."

"Edge feels more personal. It's not, "Oh, I have to go to Edge class." It's more like a community."

"It is a great learning time for your child. Personally I have learned a lot more about Christ this year than ever. I also feel much closer to God. So I highly encourage this chance."

"Edge has been fun and is a great way to increase your faith with your friends. There are many fun games throughout Edge."

"My experience has been great. Everyone is so nice and they would change your life."

"I would say that Edge is a great way to become closer to God. This has been a great experience for me and I think people should go to Edge versus another faith formation program because of how Edge has older teens telling us more about Christianity."

"Edge is not like a traditional CCD, it brings it all into a new light. It introduces it in different ways making memorable moments with God and with the whole Edge team."

"I really enjoyed Edge this year. I always had a fun time and the different topics we learned about were really interesting and made me learn more about my faith. One of the lessons I really enjoyed was when we learned about the Eucharist and how it's the real body of Christ and not a symbol."

"This year at Edge has been incredible. Not only have I greatly improved my faith, but I really enjoyed going to Edge every Sunday. The first time that I came to Edge, I didn't know what to expect. Luckily, Tahni and the rest of the Edge core were friendly and welcoming. 8th grade Edge is quite different from seventh grade. The biggest change is that it is more personal. Multiple times each session, we break off into our small groups. These people are a mix of eighth graders, high school core members, and adult core members. Throughout the year, we get to know everyone in our group, which makes for very enjoyable, thoughtful, and impactful conversations. Another change is the fact that it takes place on a Sunday. This might affect schedules a little bit, but I believe that it is truly worth it. This year, we have built a strong community with everyone in Edge. This community has strengthened me in many ways, and I am sad that the year is almost over."

"As an Edge student, I would 100% recommend and encourage the upcoming 8th graders to take Edge. Edge taught me a lot and changed the way I saw church and Jesus. The Edge

sessions are very moving and helpful for when you are faced with real-life situations. Edge made me feel very comfortable with expressing my thoughts and feelings by making me feel holy, valuable, and loved as a child of God.”

PARENT TESTIMONIAL: "WHY I SEND MY CHILD TO SEASIDE EDGE FOR 8TH GRADE FAITH FORMATION"

”Hi Parents! I am a regular Hingham mom with 3 regular teens. Like you, my husband and I want to provide our kids with the best opportunities for success and happiness in their future. We prioritize their education, give them opportunities for travel, sports and lots of extracurriculars. One area that I think many of us forget to prioritize is making sure that our kids know Jesus. We have sent them to CCD since they were in 1st grade and they have heard all of the traditional CCD stories, Edge is NOT that.

Edge is an opportunity for your teen to dig a little deeper and get a little more personal and be a little more thoughtful in their relationship with Jesus and their faith. It’s a wonderful opportunity for them to meet other teens just like them who have chosen to make their faith an important part of their life.

I have seen personally the benefits of this in my older 2 children and I’m so excited for my soon to be 8th grader to start the Edge program next year! My kids have made great friends, and mentors here, and it’s given their faith a foundation that I know they can rely on for the rest of their life. We all want to give our children the tools for success and happiness, Edge is an awesome opportunity to give them an ”edge” in their spiritual development!”

- Jenn Bastis



8TH GRADERS' QUOTES ON EDGE

FAITH FORMATION SESSION TOPICS

Life is Choices: *To remind teens that they make hundreds of choices every day and that every choice has consequences. To help teens become better decision makers, and demonstrate that God's way and the way of the world are very different, and invite teens to choose to walk with God.*

What's Holding You Back? *To demonstrate that all paths are not equal and that there is such a thing as objective truth, and to help teens to recognize who and what is holding them back from living the incredible life God invites them to.*

The Jesus Question: *To teach teens that Jesus and his teachings are the answer to the problems we face in our lives and in the world, and to help them recognize the power and importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus.*

The Prayer Process: *To teach the teens how to pray, that it helps us discover God's will for our lives, and to encourage a daily routine of prayer.*

- "This program has taught me how to pray."
- "I used to tell people I pray just to please them, but now I actually do it."
- "I can always turn to God and he is always there for me."

The Bible: *To demonstrate that the Word of God is a practical and powerful source of inspiration and direction in our lives and to encourage teens to develop the habit of reading the Bible regularly.*

- "Since we started Edge, I have started praying and now reading the Bible a lot more."

Relationships: *To establish the purpose of relationships and that the most important relationship in our lives is with God, and demonstrate that developing healthy relationships is essential to the life God is calling us to live.*

- "I'm definitely more connected than last year because I pray more. Having to talk to God is amazing and joyful."
- "The closer we are to God, the more we will want to stay with Him."

The Eucharist: *To establish that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and that it is an incredible gift to each of us through the Church. To teach teens how to enter into a eucharistic relationship with God, and explain the transformational power the Eucharist can have in their lives.*

- "I now believe that the Eucharist isn't a symbol, but really the body and blood of Christ."
- "I feel closest to God through the Eucharist."

The Holy Spirit: *To demonstrate the practical power of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and to teach teens to allow the Holy Spirit to guide them in their decisions.*

- "I think the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help strengthen my relationship with God."
- "I should pray for the gift of counsel to help me break a bad habit and to improve in my life."
- "I think the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help me to be more forgiving of others."

The Church: *To teach teens that the Church is part of God's plan for humanity and to help recognize that the Church can play a powerful role in their lives, and that they play a unique and vital role in the mission of the Church.*

- "I am now appreciating having God to turn to in my everyday life."
- "I see how Mass around the world brings community together."

Made for Mission: *To teach teens that God created them on purpose and for a purpose, and to help them discover the mission God is calling them to.*

- "The world becomes a mess when you don't follow God's plan for you, which is apparent in aspects of my own life."
- "I realize that the goal in this life is to help others and to try to get to heaven."

Holiness is Possible: *To help teens recognize that there is a connection between happiness and holiness, and to teach teens how to say yes to God and that their yes can make a huge difference.*

- "I've learned how God is present in my life and how he always knows what's best for me."

Three "Special Sessions" (Parents encouraged to attend): *To experience Eucharistic Adoration with Guided Meditations and the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. To experience walking the Stations of the Cross with Jesus during Holy Week.*

- "Praying at Adoration was so calming."

Additional Quotes Illustrating Practical Applications of their Deepening Faith

- “I would be more confident in my decisions with the Holy Spirit.”
- “I fight with my siblings, so I went upstairs and prayed in my room to help me to understand one of my siblings more, and that gave me a lot of peace.”
- “I’ve learned to turn to God when I feel alone.”
- “The Edge Core are amazing and very connected to God which makes me want to be more like that.”

