

Telling Your Story

Acts 1:8 - "You will be my witness...to the ends of the Earth."

Colossians 1:28 - "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

Revelation 12:11 - "And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

Thinking Through Your Story

When we speak of telling your story, we mean sharing with someone how Christ has changed your life. This will encompass your personal conversion experience and a public confession of how God is working in your life. It is a witness.

The scope of your testimony will include your whole life, including where and how you were raised. The backdrop of those life experiences have shaped and painted the story of your life. This is your life message and story, which is unique and stands alone in time and history.

Your story will demonstrate the faithfulness of God through the power of answered prayer, His love for you, and God's sovereignty in your life.

There Will Be Specific Points to Your Story

Your life before becoming a Christian

How you realized your need for Christ

Why you accepted Christ as your Lord

When and how that decision was made

Specific ways Christ has changed your life

Thanking God for others who have influenced your walk with Christ

Consider the Following

Weave scripture into your testimony (Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Stress the personal relationship you have with Christ. Share your testimony as honestly as you can, in a way that others can identify with weaknesses and needs. Be positive. If your life experiences have the influence of other individuals, churches, denominations, or religious groups, speak of these in a manner that is honest but not judgmental or critical. Convey an attitude of love and sympathy towards people trapped in lies and untruth.

Some people become Christians at an early age, so below are some guides to assist you in shaping your message. For example, consider your home life, the people who influenced you, and your early Christian experiences. Also, consider your early understanding of what Christ meant to you and how you came to relate personally to Jesus as Lord and Savior. In addition, areas where Christ has made a difference in your life and places He is still working can serve as a platform to tell your story.

A few ways to begin your story would be:

"I used to think..."

"I used to be afraid..."

"I didn't understand the real purpose in life until..."

A few ways to end your story would be:

By thanking others, if appropriate

By closing with the question: "Do you feel you have come to know Christ yet, or are you still on the way?"

When we speaking of ending your story with a word of thanks, it can include the following: parents, Bible study teachers, co-workers, a friend, a pastor, a neighbor, an organization, a coach, a fellow athlete or peer, etc.

Shaping Your Story

Now that you are thinking about your story, we want you to write down some initial thoughts as you begin to shape your story. Make these initial statements no longer than one or two sentences. Later you will develop your story into a three minute summary of how God has pursued you, loved you, and worked in your life.

Prepare your story (Use this worksheet if you came to Christ at an older age.)

1. Tell about your life before you received Christ. (1 minute)

- What was the greatest struggle in your life before you came to know Christ?

- What specific examples, situations, etc. illustrate this theme or attitude in your life?

2. Tell about your decision to receive Christ. (1 minute)

- When?

- Where?

- Who or what?

- How? (the Gospel)

- Why?

3. Tell about your life after trusting Christ. (1 minute)

- What difference has Jesus made in your life?

- What do you still struggle with and how is God helping you change in this area?

4. Bible verse (only if it relates directly to your experience).

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Prepare your story (Use this worksheet if you came to Christ at younger age.)

1. Tell about your spiritual heritage. (1 minute)

- Tell a little of your background (Christian family, church.)

- What struggle did you have, even though you knew Christ?

(Example: "Although my family went to church regularly and I learned about God, I was still very insecure. I would...")

2. Tell about your decision to receive Christ. (1 minute) Explain how you finally came to understand what Christ had done for you at an early age. Include the Gospel, how you came to understand God's love for you, why Christ died on the cross to forgive you, and your need to ask God to take control of your life.

- When?

- Where?

- Who or what?

- How? (the Gospel)

- Why?

3. Tell about your life after trusting Christ. (1 minute)

- What difference has Jesus made in your life?

- What do you still struggle with and how is God helping you change in this area?

4. Bible verse (only if it relates directly to your experience).

Now that you have prepared your story get suggestions on how to improve the effectiveness of your life story.

Draft of Your Story

Second Draft of Your Story