

10 Tips for Telling Your Story

No matter how simple or complicated, your story (testimony) is meant to be told and can help introduce people to Jesus (John 4:29,39).

Here are some tips that can help you take that step of faith.

1. You've Got the Power

God's Spirit lives inside us the moment we trust Christ as Lord and Saviour. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).

You don't need to muster up courage or even be an amazing speaker (1 Corinthians 2:1-5), just be honest about who Christ is and what He's done, and is still doing, in your life.

2. Everyone's on a Spiritual Journey

God is already at work in the lives of others. You can't tell whether someone is moving toward or away from Him based simply on outward appearances (Acts 17:26-27). Don't let assumptions keep you from sharing your story.

3. God Desires to Use YOU

He invites you to be part of other people's spiritual journeys to faith (2 Corinthians 5:20). Your story might help connect someone to Jesus.

4. Be Prepared

The Bible says always be ready to give a reason for the hope you have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). One great way to be prepared is to write out your spiritual story (your testimony) ahead of time.

5. Practice, Practice, Practice

After you've written out your story, practice it out loud a few times. Try recording yourself on your phone. Time it, aiming for about three minutes. Make sure what you've said is clear.

6. Pray

Ask God to bring someone to mind — a friend, a family member or an acquaintance — who doesn't yet know Him. Then pray for God to draw that person to Himself.

Ask God to help you see and take the opportunities He provides to share your story.

7. Ask Permission

Before you begin to share your story, ask permission. You might say, "Can I tell you a little bit about my spiritual experience?"

8. Be a Good Listener

Sharing your story is not meant to be a one-way conversation. It's a chance to show you care by listening and taking an interest in the other person's story.

Asking questions is one great way to do this. Try these:

What was your religious background as a child?

What have you tried in your spiritual journey since then?

Where are you now in your spiritual journey?

9. Leave the Results to God

Share your story in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God. No matter how someone responds, continue to pray for them. You never know how the Lord will move in someone's life down the road.

10. Remember

Sharing your story isn't a task to be accomplished, it's about the person you are talking to — someone God loves (Ephesians 2:4-5) and wants to be in a relationship with.

Pray for an opportunity and share your story with someone this week.

Thrapston baptist church



What's your story?

*Knowing Jesus,
Making Jesus Known*

Your Story is God's Story: Creating Your Testimony

"If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way" (1 Peter 3:15-16, NLT).

Take a few minutes now to work through these questions so you can be ready for the next open door God gives you to tell your story.

My Life Before Christ

1. What about my life before Christ will relate most to the non-Christians I know?
2. What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from?
3. How did those things begin to let me down?

How I Came to Christ

1. When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
2. When and why did my perspective begin to change toward Christ?
3. What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him? Why did I finally decide to accept Christ (or give Him complete control of my life)?

What Christ is doing today

1. What has happened in your life since you became a Christian?
2. What is God doing in your life today?

Now that you've answered these questions, take a few minutes to write out your story as if you were telling it to someone.

Your Story is His Story

Every time we tell our story (our testimony) we give honour and glory to God, and He is pleased with that.

Your story — regardless of how "spectacular" or "ordinary" you think it is — is a story about God's character. It is your eyewitness account of how God rescued you from sin and death through Christ, and changed your life as a result.

When we share our story with others we help them get to know what God is like and what He can do.

Be Ready

The Bible calls us to "always be ready" to explain our hope in Christ with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15-16, NLT).

Sometimes we like to think that because it's our story, we don't have to do anything to be ready to tell it. After all, we were there when it happened, and we're living it now.

Yet we can get nervous, become side-tracked or forget things when sharing our testimonies, which can be confusing or distracting for those listening. This is why a little preparation and practice can be so valuable.

Put it Together

Let's take a look at how to put your story together, section by section. **There are five basic parts to your story:** the opening, your life before Christ, how you came to Christ, your life after Christ, and the closing.

1. **The Opening.** Identify a theme you can use to frame your story. What did your life revolve around (e.g. relationships, your reputation, money) that God used to help bring you to Him? Briefly illustrate how that influenced your life.

2. **Your Life Before Christ.** Paint a picture of what your life was like before you came to Christ. Don't dwell too much on, or brag about, past sin struggles. Share only the details that relate to your theme — just enough to show your need for Christ.
3. **How You Came to Christ.** Give the details about why and how you became a Christian. Communicate in such a way that the person you are talking with, and anyone who overhears you, can understand how they can become a Christian, too. Even if your listeners are not ready for that, God could use your story and explanation of the gospel to draw them to Himself in the future.
4. **Your Life After Coming to Christ.** Share some of the changes that Christ has made in your life as they relate to your theme. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude or perspective, not just mere changes in behaviour. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, but what's different about your life now?
5. **The Closing.** End with a statement that summarizes your story and connects everything back to your theme. If you want, close with a Bible verse that relates to your experience.



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