

TELLING YOUR STORY



“You will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the Earth.” — **Acts 1:8**

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone complete in Christ.” — **Colossians 1:28**

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” — **Revelation 12:11**

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 and Savior
 - 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
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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 in a way that others can identify with weaknesses and needs as honestly as you can. 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, there are areas where Christ has made a difference in your life and places He is still working that 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” or “I didn't understand the real purpose in life until ...”
- **A few ways to end your story would be:**
By thanking others, if appropriate, or by closing with the question, “Do you feel you have come to know Christ yet, or are you still on the way?”

When we speak of ending your story with a word of thanks, it can include the following: Parents, Bible Study Teacher, Co-Worker, Friend, Pastor, Neighbor, Organization, Coach, Fellow Athlete or Peer, etc.

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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 to four minute summary of how God has come after you, loved you and worked in your life.

Beginning Grid for Articulating Your Story

My life before becoming a Christian:

How I realized my need for Christ:

Why I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior:

When and how that decision was made:

Specific ways Christ has changed my life:

Thanking others who have influenced my walk with Christ:

