

How to... SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

Whenever we tell our story (our testimony) we honor and glorify God because, ultimately, it's His story in our lives. Your story—regardless of how “ordinary” or “spectacular” you might think—is not as much about you as it is a story about who God is and what He has done. It is your eyewitness account of how God rescued you from sin and death through Christ and changed your life.

The Bible actually tells us to *be prepared* to share our stories. 1 Peter 3:15 says: **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.**

Even though it's our own story, we can still get nervous, get side-tracked with a detail that may not be that important or forget something major. That can be confusing or distracting for someone listening, so planning and preparing can help.

5 BASIC PARTS TO YOUR STORY

1. **The Theme.** Identify a theme you can use to frame your story. What did your life revolve around before you? This can be a good thing or a bad thing. What in your life was instrumental that God used to help bring you to Him? Briefly illustrate how that influenced your life. Maybe it was relationships, reputation, money, a desire, etc.
2. **Life Before Christ.** Explain 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. Demonstrate your need for Christ.
3. **Encounter With Christ.** Give details about how, when, where and why 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 could 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. **Life With Christ.** Share some of the changes that the Gospel has made in your life, especially as they relate to your theme. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude or perspective, not just mere changes in behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, but what is different about your life now and because of your relationship with Jesus?
5. **Now What?** End with a statement that summarizes your story and connects everything back to your theme. Maybe close with a Bible verse that relates to your experience.

SUMMARIZE THE GOSPEL IN 4 STEPS

1. **Who God Is:** God is perfect and holy. And God loves you and created you to be in relationship with Him.
2. **Who We Are:** People are sinful and separated from God; the relationship with God is cut off. This leads to death.
3. **God's Response:** Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him, through Grace alone, we can be forgiven reconciled to God personally and experience His love.
4. **Our Response:** We must individually put our faith in that gift of grace. We can ask God for forgiveness and for a relationship with Him to begin.

FINAL TIPS

- Pray before you write out and share your story.
- Write the way you would speak.
- Don't be overly negative or positive. Be honest.
- Don't criticize or name any church, denomination, etc.
- Think about your listener(s). Avoid overly-religious terms, especially if they have no background.
- Keep it short. Aim to tell your story in less than five minutes.
- Practice telling your story until it becomes natural.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Google “Knowing God Personally”
- Download the GodTools App on your phone