

STEP 2 - SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY - CHAPTER 11

CREATING YOUR OWN STORY USING METHODS 1 & 2



Creating And Writing Your Individual Story Of Faith In Jesus Christ

We are thrilled that you have expressed an interest in sharing your story. This is your testimony of how you came to accept [Jesus Christ](#) and His sacrificial death on the cross as repayment for your sin and the means for you to have a personal relationship with God. Please take some time to start your rough outline of how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior.

A Samaritan woman had an interaction with Jesus in [John 4:4-42](#). She becomes persuaded that He is the Lord and returns to her city to tell others about Jesus. The result of her telling others about Jesus is seen in verse 39, "[Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony.](#)" This is just one example in the Bible of individuals sharing their testimony of meeting the Savior. You might feel that this woman's story is more impressive than your own, but let that not be discouraging.

Everyone's testimony of how Jesus changed their life can be powerful and effective.



The Power Of A Testimony

People who hear about your Salvation experience and how God has drastically transformed your life will be excited to learn how God can change their own life. Your story is a hundred times more powerful than telling them the "theology" of Christianity alone.

A Christian teacher once said, "*Despite the intellectual discussions for the existence of God, still the most effective argument of all is a changed life.*" The example of your

changed life will generally do more to "*pull*" an individual toward Jesus over anything else. Nevertheless, it is insufficient for people to see you are different—they need to know why.

Telling your story is the most effective and reliable way of sharing your faith. Although an individual can reject that Jesus alone offers Salvation, they cannot deny the truth that you've discovered a reason to place your hope and faith in Christ.

Learning how to share your testimony in 3 to 4 minutes is essential. If you can't share your story quickly, you will find it challenging to share. Narrow down your testimony to the main key points.

You, by now, should have a rough draft of your testimony using three sheets of paper labeled "**before**," "**how**," and "**after**." If not, it is not too late to be successful at sharing your story. Please start now.



METHOD 1 - SHARING YOUR STORY/TESTIMONY

We recommend reading a Biblical testimony by Paul the Apostle in [Acts 22:3-21](#).

Include these three areas:

1. Your Background Before (1 Minute)

Example: [Acts 22:3-5](#).

You can discuss numerous things here,

such as your life story in a nutshell, what you used to think of God before turning to Him, and so on. Include enough background information to convey what kind of person you were.

If you accepted Christ at a younger age, you might have difficulty thinking about what to say here, mainly because you can't recall ever not being a Christian. If this is your situation, talk about how you grew up, your family life, the wrong choices you made, etc.

2. Accepting Christ The How (1-2 minutes)

Example: [Acts 22:6-16](#). Keep in mind how Paul reveals that Jesus is Lord ([vs. 8](#)), and calling upon Christ's name is required to be forgiven of sins. ([vs. 16](#)). This is an effective and vital method of introducing the Gospel to somebody. After someone listens to your transformation story and shows interest, they ought to know how to turn to Christ and accept Jesus as their own personal Savior.

A few things need to be discussed here in your testimony:

- God created us to have eternal life with Him.
- Sin separates us from God and having eternal life.

- God loves us so much that He desires us to have fellowship with Him through His son, Jesus Christ. ([1 Corinthians 1:9](#)).
- We need to respond to Him; Romans 10:9; *"If you declare with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

3. Life with Christ After (1-2 minutes)

Example: [Acts 22:17-21](#). Briefly describe how your life has changed after you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. Discuss your hope in Him. When you finish, ask the individual, *"Has something like this ever happened to you?"* If they answer, *"no,"* ask, *"Would you want it to?"* No matter what they say, it is good to get them to think about their need for Christ.



METHOD 2 - SHARING YOUR STORY/TESTIMONY

Put your story together in a logical order.

In method 2, there are five essential parts to your story:

1. Introduction.
2. Your life **before** Christ.
3. **How** you came to Christ.
4. Your life story **after** Christ.
5. Closing.

1. Introduction (Opening)

Determine a THEME you can utilize to form your story. What did your life focus around (e.g., friendships, reputation, credibility, money) that God used to bring you to Him? In brief, illustrate how that influenced your life.

2. BEFORE you came to Christ (1 minute)

Create a word picture of your life before you came to Christ. Don't obsess excessively or boast about past sins, struggles, and battles. Share only the details that connect to your theme just enough to reveal your need for Christ. Some examples of words you can use to illustrate your life before Christ: *empty, overwhelmed, lonely, frustrated, futile, lacking importance, goalless, prosperous but still unhappy*. Remember to make your story relatable to the person you are speaking to.

3. HOW you came to Christ (1-2 minutes)

Describe how and why you became a Christian.

- Talk specifically about coming to proclaim your faith in Jesus—where were you in life when this happened?
- Where you longing for truth?
- Did somebody share the Gospel with you?
- What made you respond to the Gospel message and accept Jesus as your Savior?

Make sure you iterate how you were convicted of your sins and how you mourned over those sins and turned from them (repentance). Explain your newfound faith in Jesus. It is vital to connect to the person you are speaking with, so they can better understand their need for God and how to become a Christian themselves.

4. Your life AFTER you came to Christ (1 -2 minutes)

Share specific changes Christ has made in your life as they connect to your theme. Ideally, pick areas that have changed in your life that the listener can relate to. Highlight the changes in your character, mindset, attitude, or perceptions, not just minor changes in behavior and habits. Be authentic, practical, and genuine. Be honest as we still have a hard time as Christians, and life is far from ideal; however, talk about how great your life is today by having a relationship with Jesus no matter what our circumstances are.

After you explain how your life has changed, ask the listener some questions like *"Has anything like this happened to you?"* If they say, *"no,"* state, *"Would you like to have a relationship with Jesus?"* Regardless of what they say, the important thing is that you got them thinking about their own need for Christ.

5. Closing—Wrapping up

Be aware, and **use Godly wisdom** in how the person responds to your presentation. Finish with a statement that summarizes your story and relates everything back to your theme. If you prefer, close with a Bible verse that connects to your experience.

Proof of a changed life because of Jesus Christ

A lot of things have changed and transformed in your life. A few of these changes are visible to others; others are internal. Use keywords as a springboard to describe your life experiences and to show evidence that your life has changed. This shows that those who become Christians become a new person in Christ. They are no longer the same, for the old life is gone, and a brand-new life has begun!



CHALLENGE:

If your intention is to get serious about sharing Christ with others, don't just wing it. Take time to write out your story first and even memorize your testimony. Remember to use words that reveal emotions; *"An effective word presented is the best word to use."* Your testimony will be far more effective if it is polished. But remember to keep it fluid enough so you can omit or add experiences in order for it to relate to different types of people. Practice numerous times in front of a friend, in front of a mirror, or video yourself telling your story.

Have you written your first draft yet? If not, please start now!

When Should I Share My Story

Share when you see that someone can benefit from your testimony. Examples: someone hurting, struggling, asking questions, looking for answers, or just curious. Be sensitive to following and trusting the Holy Spirit's leadership when talking to people. If possible, do a *follow-up phone call* or prearrange to *meet with them* within a few days after telling your story.

Always be adaptable and resourceful in a one-on-one conversation with friends, family, strangers, or small groups. Be prepared to share in any situation. Share your story with courage, joy, assurance, and trusting in God that He will use your testimony for His glory. Remember, you may not see instant results from the person after you share, but you are planting a seed for later conversations. The Holy Spirit will make the seed grow.

IMPORTANT: A FINAL THOUGHT ON YOUR STORY

You can't reveal the existence of God; however, you don't need to. Let Jesus do that Himself. Just inform others what Jesus has done for you in your life, and develop a connection and relationship with them. Reveal your need for Him and how much others need Him too. Remember not to argue about Christianity. Nothing good will come out of that.

Let the person know that you would be happy to listen and answer if they have any questions, concerns, or thoughts. Please make yourself available for whatever needs they have. Remember, you do not have to have all the answers to their questions. If you are asked a question, you are uncertain about, say, *"I am not sure, but I will gladly check it out for you and get back to you."* Be specific about a time to meet or talk again.



10 GUIDELINES

Your responsibility is to share your story; God is in control of changing an individual's heart. You are just called to be ready and prepared to share what God has done in your life. No matter how straightforward or complex, your testimony is meant to be spoken to point people to Jesus. ([John 4:29,39](#)).

If you've ever felt anxious, worried, or unsure about sharing your story, here are some suggestions that can help you take that action of faith:

1. You have God's power.

The Holy Spirit provides us with the power to become His witnesses. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8).

You don't need to have tremendous courage in sharing your story or even be an excellent speaker, simply be truthful and sincere about who Christ is and what He's done for you.

8. Be a good listener.

Sharing your story is not supposed to be a one-way discussion. It's an opportunity for you to listen, pay attention, and be interested in the other person's story as well. Asking questions is one excellent method to do this. Consider these:

- "What is your religious history?"
- "What has been your spiritual experience?"
- "Where are you currently in your spiritual walk?"

9. Leave the outcome to God.

Share your testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the outcome to God. Regardless of how somebody responds and reacts, keep praying for them. You do not know and understand how the Lord will move in somebody's life later on.

10. Keep in mind.

Sharing your story isn't a job to be completed like going to work from nine to five. It is an essential and necessary task for Kingdom's sake as you speak with individuals with whom God loves and wants to have a relationship with.

Excellent verse to memorize - Colossians 3:23-24, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human master, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*

Next study guide—Chapter 12: Developing your testimony

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Additional Sharing Handout Resources

Your Faith Story ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Writing My Faith Story ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

My Faith Story Questions ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Steps For A New Christian's Growth ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

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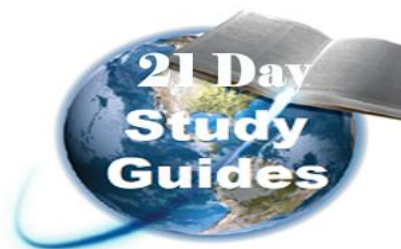
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