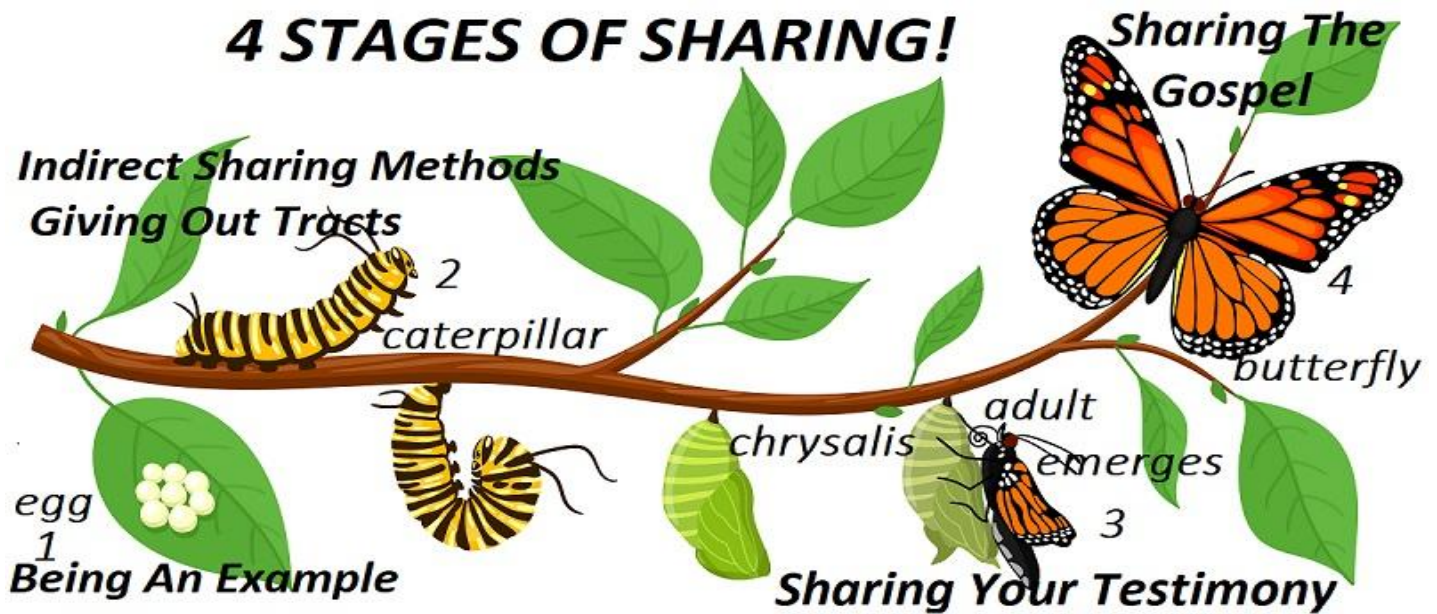


STEP 2 - SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY - CHAPTER 10

PRESENTING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY



We are excited that you have shown an interest in sharing your personal testimony. We celebrate with you in all that Christ has done in your life. Thank you for allowing us to assist you in developing your relationship with Him as you share your story with others.

THE STAGES OF A BUTTERFLY IN RELATION TO THE STAGES OF SHARING THE GOSPEL

Comparing yesterday's study, [ABCs of Sharing the Gospel](#), to the stages of a butterfly:

- First stage: **The Egg**—Being an example.
- Second stage: **Caterpillar**—Indirect sharing methods like giving out Christian tracts.

Today's chapter 10 study guide is on the third stage—**The Cocoon Stage—Sharing your Testimony**. We are developing a plan in the next few study guides that engages and embraces all these stages of soul-winning, teaching you how to share your God story with the hope that it triggers a God moment for those you are communicating with.

Soul Winning is not a choice. It is God's command. *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."* (Mark 16:15)

You've read God's command in the Bible to evangelize. You've heard the preacher or teacher plead with you to share the Gospel. Perhaps you've felt convicted to share "the Good News," but you can't get past your fear. You feel like no matter how much you

prepare or how many verses you memorize, you still won't know all the answers. But don't let fear of failure hold you back from obeying God. There are no excuses, God commanded us to proclaim the Gospel, and He is worthy to be obeyed. We may never know all the answers, but we must be obedient. The only thing God cannot use is our ***silence***. Remember, a person's eternity in either Heaven or Hell is at stake.

What Will You Do?

You're at the point of making a choice. Will you be obedient and share? You can continue to hold on to God's message of Salvation for yourself or share the Gospel with those lost and in need.

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

Worry, fear, or indecision to witness (sharing the Gospel) typically originates from a lack of self-confidence and uncertainty in your understanding of the topic. You deserve praise for being interested in studying how to share the Gospel enough to read these study guides! But, obviously, just reading study guides won't be able to provide you with all you need to win souls.

Common Fears:

- Saying the wrong thing
- Being tongue-tied
- Embarrassment
- Confrontation
- Laughed at
- Unknown
- Rejection

FEAR?

Overcoming Your Fear of Sharing

- Understanding the Scriptures.
- Successful previous experiences.
- Fellowshiping around individuals that also want to share the Gospel.
- Prayer.
- Remember, the Holy Spirit will use the words you speak.



You will typically discover that the fear and worry you have about sharing will vanish as quickly as you start to talk to individuals. The essential thing is to GET STARTED! Do not permit the devil to keep you from being a fruitful witness. Claim 1 John 4:18, *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."*

To be an effective soul-winner, you must study and practice continuously. Among the most valuable and practical things a Christian can do is write out and develop their individual testimony (their story.) Creating and organizing your story helps you share your testimony clearly and efficiently with others. This practice will help you think through and analyze what God has done in your life.

Get together with a friend who wishes to spread the “*Good News*” as well and practice speaking your testimony in front of each other. Role-playing will help you recognize phrases you could word better, and you will gain more confidence each time you practice. If you do not have a friend to help you, practice speaking while looking into a mirror. Practicing your testimony several times will help you feel ready to share the Gospel message.

With a lot of practice, your testimony can be made shorter and more intriguing. You could also practice speaking your testimony by recording yourself using your cell phone, iPad, or video recorder. It is a little scary watching yourself present your testimony, but it will help you discover any changes you need to make in your delivery. Perhaps your body language looks uncomfortable, or you talk too fast, maybe you find yourself using too many words like “*um*” or “*you know,*” or repeating favorite sayings too many times. Please do not get down on yourself, as repetition increases your confidence. Fear will become less as you develop confidence that the Holy Spirit will use your words for His Glory when you trust in Him.



Practicing in front of a mirror is an excellent idea for working on each component of your presentation. It will allow you to focus on your body movements and facial expressions and give insight into how you can relax more through your presentation. Your practice may make you feel like when you started a new job from scratch—which

can be overwhelming. But in a few days or weeks of making some mistakes, you will gain confidence each time. Like me, we can be our worst critics and find reasons to quit quickly. When we look at **all** the non-perfect people in the Bible used by God, they went through many tests and hardships. Everything we do takes commitment to trust the Holy Spirit, hard work, and serving Christ.

TESTIMONY

The word “*testimony*” means “*a witness*.” A testimony is your presentation of how you came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and how He has transformed your life. A witness explains what they have personally seen, heard, known, and discovered. Your story is the most valuable and effective tool for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but usually, people don’t think about sharing their own Salvation experience. Make sure you include your own story in your presentation, and you will find that you will be more successful in reaching others for Christ. Often you will find that people can relate to your story as they will discover that they have the same need and desire for saving Grace as much as you did.

HAVE A HEART-TO-HEART TALK WITH YOURSELF

One tremendous lesson I have learned throughout this process is that it is easy to feel pity for ourselves. I can hear excuses like: *"Well, you do not know me; thus, do you realize how difficult life has been for me and how hard it is to share the Gospel. It does not come naturally to me like it does to others."* I have made this excuse myself. I have always thought that I am not smart enough. When I am around other people, I feel I have nothing to say that is worth telling.



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Sometimes I shake my head and say, Lord, *"Why did you pick me? I am the 'runt of the litter.' Wouldn't you rather use more gifted people to do all these thousands of pages of Christian content on my websites?"* A little history about myself: I failed grade 11 English and have always struggled to put my thoughts on paper or in emails.

One reason why God used me is that it really isn't about me at all. It's about Him; He is the One that gets all the glory, not myself. Another reason is that even though it does not come easy to me, I trust in the Holy Spirit to carry me through my difficulties. My prayer for you is that no matter what your obstacles are in life, you will realize GOD CAN USE YOU! God choosing you to help build up His kingdom has nothing to do with how smart you are or what your natural talents may be.

GOD CAN USE ANYONE! All you need to do is be willing and obedient. It is easy to say, *"someone else can do it"* or *"I can't share the Gospel because of this ____."* Instead, roll up your sleeves and let God use you. The results are in God's hands, not yours. Surrender to Him today and pray, *"LORD, I want to share the Gospel with everyone. Teach me how to share by trusting the Holy Spirit to guide me."*



NOBODY BECOMES A PERFECT SOUL-WINNER INSTANTLY

I want to encourage you to start sharing today. It takes practice. God will bless your faithfulness and dedication in sharing the Gospel over how well you presented the message. Psalm 126:6:

"Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them. ."

SHARING YOUR STORY

1. MAKE IT PERSONALIZED

Never preach. Share what Christ has done in your life and how much your life has changed. Utilize the pronouns "*I*," "*me*," and "*mine*."

2. MAKE IT BRIEF

Three or four minutes ought to be sufficient time to share important truths.

3. ALWAYS KEEP CHRIST CENTRAL

Always emphasize what He has done for you.

4. UTILIZE THE WORD OF GOD

One or two Bible verses embedded in your presentation will provide power to your testimony. Keep in mind that the word of God has a razor-sharp cutting edge. "*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*" (Ephesians 6:17)

NOTE: Avoid talking about negative church experiences in your testimony. Do not mention a church's name that you did not like. This creates a sense of negativity and passive-aggressiveness.

Write down your testimony the way you would tell it to a non-Christian. Make the story so clear that an individual hearing it would understand exactly how to receive Christ as their Savior.

- **First**, talk a little about your life *before* trusting in Jesus Christ.
- **Second**, share *how* you came to know Christ, your transformation, and *how* you came to trust in Him.
- **Third**, talk about all the blessings *after* coming to Jesus. Your sins are forgiven, assurance of everlasting life, and your new outlook on life.

After creating and organizing your story, ask the Lord to provide you with prospects and opportunities to share your testimony. Pray for individuals you would especially like to tell about Jesus Christ in your community, at your job, or at school.

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO PRESENT YOUR TESTIMONY

Apostle Paul's testimony in [Acts 22:1-21](#) can be outlined as follows:

- *Before I received Christ* - vs. [1-5](#)
- *How I got saved* - vs. [6 - 10](#)
- *After I received eternal life* - vs. [11-21](#)

The last bullet point, After, is the most crucial part. People desire to know what can be gained from receiving Jesus Christ as their Savior. Bear in mind that your testimony is

your personal experience of Salvation. Folks can't argue with your personal story of Salvation. So, do not be afraid or hesitate to tell them.

YOUR TESTIMONY

Before I trusted Christ

How I trusted Christ

After I've trusted Christ

Remember that you, alone, do not have the power to persuade anyone of spiritual truth. The Holy Spirit convicts non-believers of their necessity to know and accept Christ.

"When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment." (John 16:8). As you pray concerning those you want to share your testimony, ask our Lord to empower you with the Holy Spirit as you share the Gospel. Believe in your heart that God is faithful to His Word in convicting people of their needs.

God has called each Christian to be a witness of what they have *"seen and heard."* ([1 John 1:3](#).) Witnessing is a lifestyle, and you are a witness at any given time. You are witnessing in your daily life, probably without even realizing it; actions are typically more revealing than words. Loving and caring about others and showing your genuine concern for them are practical means to communicate the love of Christ.



REMEMBER YOUR TESTIMONY IS UNIQUE TO YOU!

Sometimes when shopping for clothes, you see items for sale saying, *"one size fits all."* This is not the case in preparing your testimony, as your individual experience will be unique from other people. Also, your presentation will change when you construct your testimony to be relatable to the person you are speaking with. For example, use keywords related to the non-Christian's age and situation. These keywords are highlighted in the boxes below.

START NOW by creating a rough draft of your testimony.

PLEASE USE THREE SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER labeled **BEFORE**, **HOW**, and **AFTER**.

YOUR TESTIMONY SHOULD INCLUDE:



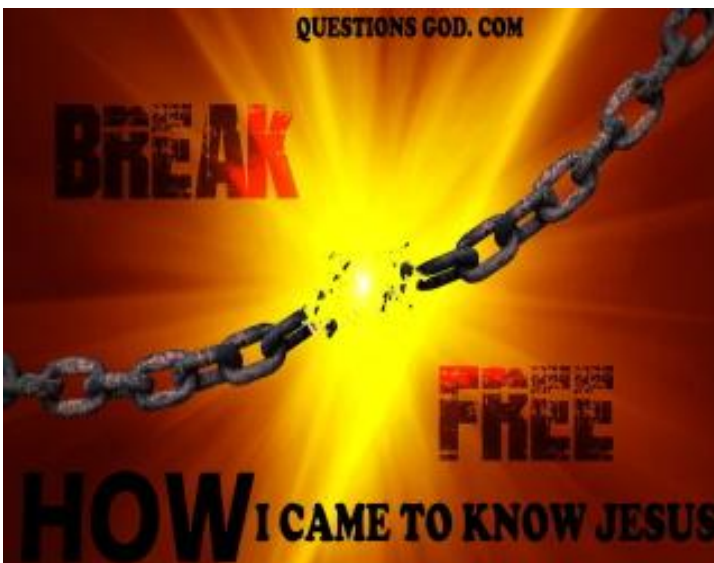
1. Life Before Christ

(Please start your first draft page marked "**BEFORE.**")

These *keywords* and expressions below help you recall your life before you came to know Christ. Utilize them, or other suitable terms, as they apply to your circumstances in your written testimony.

Lonely	Emptiness	Good Deeds
Driven	Good Person	No Direction
Religious	Without Purpose	Fear of Death
Fearful	Controlling	Lost

- *Teenagers* can relate to loneliness, fear, searching for answers, and having no clear direction in life.
- *Adults* can relate as well to the above, including believing in different religions, fearing death, feeling as though they have no purpose, and feeling lost.
- *Business* people can also relate to all the above, including having more worldly desires like gaining more money and the desire to please themselves and others over pleasing God.



2. How I Trusted Christ

How You Got Saved - Ways you came to know God. (Please start and use your second draft marked "**HOW**").

God uses various methods in a loving way to make us realize the importance of having a personal relationship with Him. We all have varied backgrounds and different experiences. The following keywords below identify a few of God's methods to draw us close to Him. Find those that apply to you or provide your

own words that work for your own Salvation story. Jesus answered, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" (John 14:6)

Friend	Minister / Pastor	Church Service	Youth Camp
Stranger	Parent / Meetings	Bible Class	In My Home

Beyond Belief

...It's All Good

After I Received Christ

3. After I Trusted Christ

Evidence of a Changed Life.

(Please start and use your third draft page marked "**AFTER.**")

Many aspects of your life have changed since Jesus became your Lord and Savior. Many of these changes are noticeable to others, and others are not so obvious. Use the keywords below that describe your life and how it has been changed.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This verse implies 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! Use the keywords below that describe your life and the changes.

Joy	Peace	Forgiveness	Direction
Patience	Kindness	Faithfulness	Witnessing
Love	Self-control	Compassion	Goodness
Service	Assurance	Gentleness	Bible Study

Over the next few days, we will give examples of personal testimonies to help you think through an outline for your own testimony. Some parts will apply, and some will not. You will get a good indication of how to write out your testimony by the examples given, including:

- *My Life before Christ* (1 minute long).
- *How I came to Know Jesus Personally* (1 to 2 minutes long).
- *My Life after I became a Christian* (1 to 2 minutes long).

Words to Avoid

Avoid using Christian phrases that are too "*churchy*." Most non-Christians will have trouble identifying what you mean. Refrain from using these phrases in the do-not-use below. Instead, use one of the example phrases.

DO NOT USE	Use These Phrases	Use These Phrases	Use These Phrases
"born again"	spiritual birth	spiritual renewal	spiritual awakening
"saved"	rescued	found hope	delivered from despair
"lost"	had no hope	had no purpose	separated from God
"Gospel"	Good News	God's message	hope for the world

"sin"	rejecting God	missing the mark	disobedience to God
"repent"	turn around	admit a wrong	change one's mind
"repent"	obey God	follow God's Word	decide to turn away

CAUTION: Be cautious and wise in avoiding using the examples in the left columns. The last thing we want to do is water down the Gospel by being afraid of using certain "Christian words" as "repent." The Holy Spirit will give insight and guidance about which words to use in your presentation.

Never share the Gospel message in a dogmatic, negative, hostile, and overbearing way, saying, "*You are a sinner, and you have to repent, or you are going to hell.*"

Many people do not know God or the Bible; thus, they will not understand religious terminology. Your testimony should be sensitive, understandable, and relatable to a generation that knows nothing about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and Salvation.

EXAMPLE OUTLINE



My Personal Testimony

Name: _____

Date: _____

My life **before** Christ: _____

Have you accepted Christ as your Savior? Yes ____ No ____

How I came to know Jesus, personally: _____

My life **after** I became a Christian: _____

Additional Sharing Resources

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

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

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

Suggested Conversational Opening Questions

1. Moving from a basic (introductory) conversation to a spiritual discussion:

Once you talk with someone about general topics (the weather, news, hobbies, sports, etc.), it is easy to transition to a spiritual conversation by asking thoughtful questions. If you're talking about the news and all the terrible things in the world, you could easily ask, "*What is your hope in?*"

2. Moving from a spiritual conversation to the Gospel:

From a spiritual conversation, you can quickly shift to discussing the Gospel by asking other transference questions like: "*What has been your experience with Christianity?*" And "*Where are you on your spiritual walk?*"

From there, it is straightforward to continue discussing the Gospel. (Discussed in more detail in a later study guide.) Pray for an opportunity to share your story with someone this week.

Other **sample questions** you can ask are:

- *Are you satisfied with your life?*
- *Do you have questions about your existence and your reason for living?*
- *Do you ever think there is more to life?*
- *Do material things have a lasting satisfaction?*
- *Do you want direction in your life?*

FACTORS TO REMEMBER

- Be cheerful.
- Don't be untruthful, misleading, or exaggerate.
- Faith and conviction come from hearing God's Word ([Romans 10:17](#)), so include one or two key verses, specifically those important in your transformation.
- Refrain from using words that confuse individuals, such as "redeemed," "saved," "righteousness," and so on. For example, if you tell somebody you "*felt convicted*," they may ask you if you've been to jail before.
- If you aren't sure regarding the specific moment you came to faith, speak about a time when you might have come to Christ. You may get an opportunity to clarify later when you were confident that God had changed your life.
- It is essential to try to keep your testimony up to date. If you discuss only a decision made in the past times, you will fall short of illustrating the work of Jesus currently in your everyday life.



QUESTIONS FOR SELF-EXAMINATION

- Do you find that people are open to discussing spiritual matters? Why or why not?
- What sort of questions are people asking? What issues are people most concerned about?
- How does Jesus answer these questions and concerns?
- Think about people in your life that you would like to ask, *"Where are you on your spiritual journey?"*

Decide to have spiritual discussions today, and keep in mind these **three words**: *Rapport*, *Relevance*, and *Recommend*. What is the person's primary concern? (**Rapport** - Connection.) Speak in a language they can understand (**Relevance** - Purpose.) Don't debate religious beliefs. Recommend them to consider taking a look at the saving Grace of Jesus Christ (**Recommend** - Advocate - Urge.)

Frequently Asked Questions:

- *Why share my story?* God has a plan of action for everybody's life. Sharing your life story can be a way for you to celebrate what Jesus has done in your life. To reach others for Jesus, tell how you have encountered His blessings.
- *What if I don't believe that I have a story?* Write down any turning point you can think of in your life that pointed the way to Jesus. You can't encounter Jesus and remain the same.
- *Where do I begin?* Writing out your Salvation story is an excellent way to think about and organize what you want to say. Begin your testimony (story) from whatever point appears to be sensible, and Jesus will provide you guidance from there. Simply write like you're speaking to a good friend.

Don't Know What To Write? Consider writing about these in detail:

- Jesus saved me and gave me a new life.
- Jesus taught me to grow in faith.
- Jesus helped me through my struggles.
- Jesus restored a relationship that was broken.
- Jesus used me to make a difference.
- Jesus provided when I had a need.

In sharing your testimony, try to address these questions:

- What was your life like **before** becoming a Christian?
- **How** did I come to know Jesus personally? What led you to change?
- How has your life changed **after** becoming a Christian? How has your Christian faith enriched your life?
- What have you learned from your encounter with Jesus?

We celebrate each story we get and are looking for opportunities to share stories online. Please consider sharing your [testimony here](#).

In starting to share your testimony, look back on significant decisions you have made, whether good or bad, and see how they affected your life over time. This decision to start reaching lost souls is one of them. Begin your three rough drafts today.

Tip:

Draw a descriptive image for the listener using your **Before, How, and After**. Then picture yourself telling your story to a friend **using vivid picture words**, as the example in Jonah swallowed by a whale picture below. Take time to pray for God to show you how to write your testimony and the words He wants you to use.



STORY OF JONAH AND THE WHALE [HERE](#).

MY TESTIMONY

I lived a life of drinking, doing light drugs, and stealing. One day I offered a young lady at work a ride home and asked if she wanted a joint. She refused the joint and invited me to a church service that night. At that point in my life, I knew nothing about Christianity and had no interest, but I liked this girl. That night the evangelist explained the Gospel. As soon as there was an altar call, I went up immediately and asked Jesus

into my life. The Grace of God changed my life. I was not perfect, but I knew I had met God. Three out of the four vices were gone that very night.

SPECIFICS OF MY TESTIMONY RELATING TO THIS STUDY GUIDE

Talking to a Teenager:

I met Jesus in a personal way. I offered a young lady I was interested in a joint, and she offered to take me to a church service. That night changed my life forever. My **loneliness** and **fear** were gone, and I realized what I had been **searching** for all along. My love for God and others **replaced** all the **wrong desires** of stealing, drugs, and alcohol.

I never really thought about God until that one night at the church service; I realized how empty my life was, and I was living in fear. At the church, young people performed a drama of Jesus on the cross and explained how **He suffered** and **died for me**. I realized that I did not have to be **lonely**. Jesus **died** on the cross for me. And He **loved me** so much more than any human can. The **loneliness**, **fear**, and **uncertainty** were replaced with **love**, **joy**, **peace**, and **assurance** when I asked Jesus into my life. Yes, I still had **struggles**, but each day as I read my Bible and prayed, God took the **old me** and made something **new**.

Talking to an Adult:

I was an alcoholic that was **lost**, **shy**, and **fearful** about life. An acquaintance invited me to a church service. At the end of the service, they asked if anyone wanted to have a **personal relationship** with Christ. I went up and said **sorry** to God (repented), and I decided to turn from my sin (repentance) for being **disobedient** and for **rejecting Him**. I **admitted** I was **wrong** (repented), and I desired to **follow** Jesus.

Have you ever questioned **your life** and **goals** and considered where you would like to end up? I know I did. For many years I tried to **solve my problems** with alcohol. I had a few beers for breakfast or a joint to get through the day ahead. I was always terribly **lonely**, even with a few friends around. I was **never satisfied**. One night at a church service, I asked God's Son Jesus **into my heart** and asked for **forgiveness** for my sins. Something big happened. God replaced **fear** with **joy** and **self-control**. Jesus took my desire to drink alcohol away and **replaced it** with a **peace** of enjoying God and life without the **crutches** that many people depend on.

Talking to people at work or to those that are career-oriented:

As a young person, I was taught to work hard, and making money was a priority. Like everyone else, you try and get established in a job, acquire household goods, find a mate, and buy a house. Then you start collecting all the toys to go with it. I learned that new toys would only **satisfy** me for a short time; something was **still missing**. I had **no real direction** for fulfilling the **longing inside** of me. One night I heard the Gospel message of God's **forgiveness**, **love**, and **faithfulness** for **me**. I asked **Jesus Christ into my life**, and He **forgave me** of all my **disobedience** to Him. God gave me **direction** and

assurance in His promises through reading the Bible, praying (talking to Him), going to Bible study, and finding a caring local church. My life changed. I now was filled with gentleness and compassion for others, and I wanted to serve Him with an indescribable joy.

Note: The more you share, the more you will discover what parts of your testimony are relatable to each category of people. PLEASE TELL YOUR STORY
Pray for opportunities and share your story with those individuals this week.

Tomorrow's Study Guide—Chapter 11: CREATING YOUR TESTIMONY.

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Additional Handout Resources

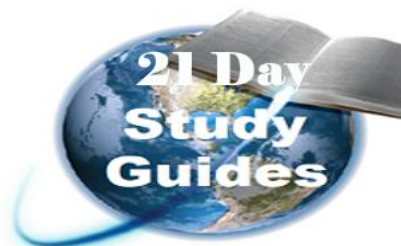
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Writing My Faith Story ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))
My Faith Story Questions ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))
Prospects List ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))
Set Sharing Goals ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))
Personal Sharing Handouts ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))
Spiritual Interest Survey ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))
Awareness Scale of the Gospel ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))
Steps For A New Christian's Growth ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))*

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