

“For me”

What is my testimony and how do I use it?

Why is it important to be able to share your faith story?

1. It turns the gospel from purely theological to intensely personal.
2. It demonstrates the life-changing power of the gospel firsthand.
3. It's hard to argue with a transformed life.

Point to ponder:

- Can you think of a time when someone's testimony changed your thinking?

“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, ‘He told me everything I ever did.’” John 4:39

SHARE WHAT YOUR LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE YOU TRUSTED IN JESUS.

- What the Samaritan woman's life was like before she trusted in Jesus?

-- She was relationally broken.

“...Jesus said to her, ‘You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband...’”

John 4:17-18

-- She had an inner thirst for something more.

“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” John 4:13-14

- What was your like life before you met Jesus?

Points to ponder:

What did you struggle with? How did you feel? What were you looking for? What were you missing?

EXPLAIN HOW YOU CAME TO FAITH IN JESUS.

- The Samaritan woman was convicted of her sin.

“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did...” John 4:29

- She was convinced of his identity.

“The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah’ (called Christ) ‘is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’ Then Jesus declared, ‘I who speak to you am he.’”
John 4:25-26 (NIV 1984)

- What were the factors that the Holy Spirit used to cause you to trust in Jesus?

Take a minute to think and write down what factors were in your life?

-- Guilt over past sin

-- Wanting to go to heaven/not wanting to go to hell

-- Thirsting for something more (security)

-- The need for purpose (significance)

-- You were a child in church and it just clicked one day

-- Other: _____

EXPLAIN WHAT YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN LIKE SINCE YOU TRUSTED IN JESUS.

- The woman at the well

-- What she left: An empty water jar and empty way of life

“Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’”
John 4:28-29

-- What she gained: Forgiveness, purpose and hope.

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
Colossians 1:13-14

- How has your life been since you trusted in Jesus?

Possible places that have changed...

What have you left behind?

What have you gained?

How do you feel?

FOUR CRITICAL REMINDERS WHEN SHARING YOUR STORY

1. You should be able to share your faith story in 2-3 minutes.
2. Don't make Christianity appear to be a pain free zone.

"...Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

-- We still struggle but our pain has a purpose!

3. Remember that every faith story is dramatic!

-- Some have a dramatic "before."

Take some time to look up these stories if you don't already know them and see how they were "dramatic: Apostle Paul, Samaritan Woman, Matthew, etc.

-- Some have a dramatic "after."

Apollos, Aquilla and Priscilla all came to Christ through the testimony of Paul and their lives were dramatically changed as they lived the rest of their lives for Christ.

-- All have a dramatic finale.

"For the LORD himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so we will be with the LORD forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

4. Tie your story into the GOSPEL story by using the words "For me..."

"I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth." Acts 26:9

God

Our

Sins

Paying

Everyone

Life

Your “For me” faith story fits with one of these points

Listen to the Holy Spirit because depending on who you are talking to it might fit in a different place!

MAPPING YOUR FAITH STORY (Write it out today!)

Before *(Note: This should be the shortest part of your testimony. Make sure to how Jesus found you and what is now in your life as the primary focus of your testimony)*

What was your life like before you trusted in Jesus? What did you struggle with? How did you feel? What were you looking for? Identify where your story ties into the GOSPEL best. Start with the words “For me...”

Factor

What were the factors in you trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior? What situations or circumstances did the Holy Spirit use to help you understand the gospel message and trust in Jesus as your Savior?

After

How has your life been since you trusted in Jesus? What have you left behind? How do you feel? What have you gained?