

How to share your story

Sharing Stories

Dan was leading a small group Bible study and early on he asked the group to share their testimonies. The first said, "A friend and I were getting high on my front porch when I was in high school. The wind wasn't blowing at all, but I looked up in this tree and saw a small section of leaves moving back and forth, so I knew there must be a God."

Dan moved on to the next person, hoping for something better. This person said, "I was at a Christian retreat and there was a dance. There was a girl I liked but I found out she didn't like me. I had to get out of there so I went outside. I looked up into the sky and said, "God if you're there, give me a sign," At that moment a shooting star went across the sky." Dan looked at him and said nothing.

Dan turned to the last person with a little hope, and this person said, "Well, mine is nothing like that. I was at a youth conference and the speaker asked us to come up to the front to receive Christ, so I went up front and asked Christ into my life." Dan breathed a sigh of relief and thanked him for sharing.

How do testimonies help unbelievers understand Christianity better?



How can testimonies hinder a person's journey to God?



1 PETER 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. 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.

"We need to be ready to give a reason for our hope at all times."

Read Acts 22:1-21

Notice how it's divided into three parts: Before (v.1-5) How (v.6-11) and After (v.12-21). Paul also adjusted his emphasis in relation to the audience he was addressing. (Acts 24:10-16, Phil. 3:2-11)

Preparing Your Testimony

Generally three minutes is a good length for a testimony. In preparing yours consider these four questions:

What were you like before you became a Christian?

This is to explain your attitude towards life, other people, ambition, religion, etc. It shows people you can identify with their current thoughts/attitudes.

Why did you decide to become a Christian?

Was it a thought process, a challenge, a crisis, a specific experience? Explain hindrances you overcame or an answer you were given. Try not to reinforce the idea that following Jesus is a blind leap. Think about why you are still a Christian today.

How exactly did you say yes to Jesus?

Make it clear that you invited Jesus into your life. What exactly did you say? If you can't remember one point in time then think of times when you've chosen God's way and not the world's on an issue. When did you start to take God seriously in your life?

What difference has being a Christian made to you?

Give one or two examples of how Christ has changed your thoughts and attitudes, relating back to the first question.

Take a few minutes to think about these questions and create a rough outline for your testimony.

Remember: God is always working in our lives. Therefore our testimony is always changing and we need to be prepared to constantly update it.

“ Ultimately, we need to be ready to give our story to anyone, anytime, anywhere. ”

TIPS ON WRITING YOUR OWN TESTIMONY

- Build your story around a theme e.g. desire for success, feelings of loneliness, etc.
- Be honest, don't exaggerate.
- Don't try to cover up difficulties or problems. If anything, these add credibility to your story and help people identify with you.
- Point to Jesus Christ and what He's done for you. Someone else should be able to trust the Lord after hearing your story. Explain how you asked Jesus into your life.
- Don't mention denominations or organisations, especially in a negative way. Such comments do not honour God.
- Avoid jargon and Christian phrases. Use words that your listener will understand.
- Learn it by heart so that you're ready to tell it naturally at any time.

Now break into pairs and practice sharing your testimony.