



PERSONAL TESTIMONY



CENTER FOR
MISSION MOBILIZATION

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

EQUIPPING YOU TO SHARE THE GOSPEL THROUGH YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Many times throughout Jesus' ministry and the book of Acts, whole communities were transformed by the testimony of a saved sinner. They were witness to the change Christ brings when He intersects ordinary people with His extraordinary power, and at times hundreds would repent and believe because of it! How important it is, then, for us to know and practice our own testimony so we are ready to share the reason we have for our hope in Christ. It takes time and intentionality to walk through our lives to remember all that God has done for us. This tool will help you craft and share your own faith story.

QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

1. Why do you think your personal testimony could be a powerful way to share the Gospel?
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Things to consider when writing and sharing your testimony

- Do: Follow a basic outline
- Do: Present the Gospel clearly
- Do: Mention how your life has changed since following Jesus
- Do: Ask them if they have considered following Jesus
- Don't: Wing it
- Don't: Use a lot of Christian jargon (saved, born again, converted...)
- Don't: Be too wordy
- Don't: Beat around the bush
- Don't: Emphasize how 'bad' I used to be
- Don't: Mention church denominations in a derogatory way
- Don't: Give the idea that when someone becomes a Christian, everything in life is easy

Using the template below, write out your testimony, and then practice sharing it with one another.

Testimony Template

1. I first sensed my need for Jesus when... (include the realization of sin and penalty of sin)
2. What made me most interested in Jesus was... (include Jesus' payment for that sin)
3. I finally decided to trust Jesus and follow him when I realized that... (include requirement to repent and trust Jesus personally)

4. I received Christ by... (include the steps you took to invite Christ into your life)
5. Since I entered into a relationship with Jesus, I have changed (From: ... To: ...)
6. Jesus helps me in my daily life by...
7. I have seen God answer my prayers, like the time...
8. Would you be interested in having a personal relationship with Jesus?

APPLICATION

- Practice sharing your testimony with each other.
- Take some time this week to write out your testimony and practice sharing it with others.
- Who could you share your testimony with this next week?

JIM'S SAMPLE TESTIMONY

I first sensed my need for Jesus when...

I was in a terrible car accident when I was 25. I had been drinking and was way over the speed limit when my car spun off the road and flipped over four times. God kept me from dying because there is no reason I should have survived. The car accident helped me see how every area of my life was out of control and that I was going to kill myself if I didn't make some changes. I went to a Christian friend of mine that I respected and he seemed to listen to me really well and he genuinely cared for me. He seemed to have his life in order and so I started asking him questions about his life and his faith and told him that I needed some help. He told me to give my life over to Jesus.

What made me most interested in Jesus was...

My friend who genuinely cared about me and listened to me. It was like God had sent him at the perfect moment to bring peace and hope to me. He constantly would talk about Jesus, but he didn't just talk about Him like other people talked about Him. He talked about Him like he talks about his wife. He genuinely loved and followed this Jesus and though his life was not perfect, it was attractive.

I finally decided to trust Jesus and follow Him when I realized that...

Jesus loved me and that He gave His life for me. I had felt like a wandering orphan in search of a family, a girl, anyone that would love me. But the fact that the God of the universe sent His Son to this messed-up world and willingly went to die on a cross to pay the penalty for all the junk in the world, including my junk, it brought me to tears. He welcomed me into His family where I am loved as His child.

Since I entered into a relationship with Jesus, I have changed:

From: Out of control
Angry and depressed
An Orphan

To: Full of direction, meaning, and purpose
Hopeful
Adopted into God's family

Jesus helps me in my daily life by...

He doesn't take away the hard things in life and replace them with roses, but He is with me and I sense His presence daily. He brings meaning to my life. I never knew what life was all about, but His Word is like a road map through the ups and downs of life. He gives me wisdom when I don't have it. He surrounds me with a family of other Christians who love me, care for me, and challenge me in my relationship with Jesus.

I have seen God answer my prayers in some pretty cool ways like the time...

As my car was flipping over and over in the car accident, I cried out to God and He heard me and answered my prayer that I didn't want to die. I asked Him to help me and He saved my life.

Bill, have you ever considered learning about how to follow Jesus?