

# Testimony Tools

## WHAT IS A TESTIMONY?

A testimony is a story, its YOUR story! It is a story about...

- Your relationship with Jesus
- Your statement of faith
- A map of your spiritual journey
- Insight that reveals your thoughts about Jesus Christ

## WHY SHOULD I SHARE MY STORY?

Romans 1:12 says, “that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.” Everyone receives encouragement when a testimony is shared. In sharing your story, you will need to spend time thinking, praying, and writing and in this process will be reminded of what God has done in your life. This process allows us to open up to others and be vulnerable. Through our stories, we cultivate deeper relationships with one another. This is the fellowship we are called into as Christ followers.

## CHOOSE A WAY TO SHARE

If you have never written your testimony, it really helps to think of your life story in two different ways.

- Salvation Story
- Growth Story

## SALVATION STORY

- Gives hope to non-Christians (shows them God cares for everyone)
- Encourages Christians (reminds them of their salvation)
- Reminds you of God's goodness
- Give the “big picture” of your life (includes your life before and after meeting Christ)

## GROWTH STORY

- Shows non-Christians that God is real and personal to you.
- Motivates Christians (reminds them that God cares about every detail in your life)
- Holds you accountable (encourages to walk the walk)
- Gives you a snapshot of your life (this is happening now)
- Shows a realistic side of Christian faith (reveals the ups and downs all Christians experience)

# Salvation Story Outline

## **BEFORE + HOW (LESSON) + AFTER = SALVATION STORY**

### **BEFORE**

This portion of your story can take up to 25% of your time. However, it does not have to reveal great detail of every wrong in your life. Sometimes by putting too much emphasis on the life before Christ, the audience may become overwhelmed. The focus of your testimony should be found in how or lesson portion. This ensures that the listener can find the hope that only Jesus can offer.

- Tell how you thought, acted, felt
- Describe what you put your faith in or what you trusted for security. i.e. friends, money, dating relationships, school, activity, sex, sports, etc.
- Share what you thought about God, the Bible, Christians
- Tell what hope you had for the future

### **HOW OR THE LESSON**

This portion of your story should be the bulk of your testimony and take up to 50% of your time.

- Describe how you got to the place where you needed Jesus
- Who told you about Jesus, under what conditions, how long did it take to make a decision to trust Christ
- Share what you did in order to trust Christ (this is important as many people have misconceptions)
- Detail your immediate thoughts about putting your faith in Jesus Christ

### **AFTER**

This is the remaining 25% of your time.

- Explain what your first days and months were like as a new Christian; what is life like now?
- What questions have been answered for you? What questions remain?
- Who have you reached out to since becoming a Christian? How do you feel about God, the Bible, church, other Christians?
- What are the biggest differences in your life now that you are a Christian? Biggest joys? Biggest fears?

# Growth Story Outline

## **ISSUE + LESSON + RESPONSE = GROWTH STORY**

Before jumping into your growth story, it is sometimes a good idea to share a short time line of your life. At what age did you come to know Christ? What influences may have contributed to your relationship with Him?

### **ISSUE**

- Tell what question or life issue was nagging at you and why
- Share how the issue/question affected you, other relationships, involvement in other activities, etc.
- Tell whether or not it was affecting your walk with God and how

### **LESSON**

- Tell about the process you went through to deal with the issue/question
- Describe who helped you during that time (friend, family member, pastor, Bible, etc.)
- Describe what conclusion you came to
- Share what you have learned about yourself through the process; what you have learned about God, others, the church, etc.

### **RESPONSE**

- Share your current plan to continue moving forward in your walk with Christ.
- Share whether or not you feel equipped to help others with similar struggles/questions
- Tell about your biggest surprise during the lesson (good or bad)
- Tell how others might be able to care for you