

The Power of Your Story

Christ Community Church Feb 12, 2017

Luke 8:38-39 *The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.*

John 4:39-42 *Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony...⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."*

John 9:25 *Whether or not he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know. I was blind and now I see.*

Acts 1:8 *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Elements of a good testimony

- You don't need to have a dramatic conversion, simply share how God has worked in your life. Why are you now following Christ? Not always past tense, but also present tense.
- Avoid Christianized words that have little meaning to those who don't follow Jesus (saved, salvation, Gospel, testimony,...) Instead of using the words, explain them. Rather than saying, '...that when I was saved,' you could say 'that's when I asked Christ into my life and started to follow Him.'
- Be real and genuine. Humility goes a long way. Although this isn't a confessional, you can be open about struggles, doubts, trials, sin, hardships that you have faced and are still facing.
- Include the gospel...get to Jesus. He should be the focus.

1. **Background.** Brief summary of your spiritual background. Shoot to build common ground with the listeners.

2. **Why** did you become a Christian? What did you understand about Jesus that made you want to ask him into your life? This is a natural place to explain the gospel.

3. **How** did you become a Christian? Try to paint a picture with the details: where were you? Were you with someone? Do you remember what you prayed? Include your thoughts, emotions and action (what were my thoughts? how did I feel, what did I do?)

4. **What happened afterward?** Was there a flood of emotion? Doubts? Did you feel worse? Peace? Comfort? Hope?

5. **How has your life changed?** (Got connected with other believers? God worked on some character issues, fruit of the Spirit, inner peace, priorities changed...)

6. **End with an appropriate summary, verse, or a challenge for them to take the next step.**

Purpose Driven Life, chapter 37, has a similar set of questions that divides your testimony into four points:

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus?
2. How I realized I needed Jesus?
3. How I committed my life to Jesus (please include the Gospel in this section)?
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life?