

Testimony Worksheet

It is very important for any Christian interested in effectively sharing Jesus Christ to have an effective, concise testimony or faith story. A testimony is simple sharing what Christ has done in our lives. It is a very powerful tool if developed properly. Revelation 12:11 states, "And they overcame him (Satan) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony." Jesus, when He healed the demoniac of Gadera, told him this, "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." A positive, clearly presented, three-minute testimony can be very helpful in encouraging people to respond to Jesus Christ.

There are several things to do as you prepare your testimony:

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance before you begin. Seek to be able to recall your spiritual journey and 'life map' the process.
2. Develop your testimony around a three-point outline.
 - My life before knowing Christ.
 - How I came to Christ.
 - How my life has changed since I accepted Christ. (i.e. What He has helped you with, how He has affected your actions and attitudes, etc.)
3. Emphasize what has happened since you received Christ (Jesus told the demoniac to "return ... and describe what great things God has done for you"). Be positive and realistic.
4. Make your first sentence interesting and attention getting. Close with a good conclusion (Think through how you can use word pictures).
5. Write in such a way that a non-Christian can identify with you.
6. Be positive, not negative, from the start to the finish. Don't present Christianity as being problem-free. Be realistic. Share exactly what Christ has helped you with and what He means to you now.
7. Be specific.
8. Use Scripture. Be sure to explain how you came to know God personally.

Avoid the following:

1. Clichés that are meaningless to the non-Christian, such as: "blessings, born again, praise God, redeemed, glorious, the blood of the Lamb," etc.
2. Vague generalities about what has happened in your life. Be specific.
3. Being critical of any churches, denominations, or individuals – or dwelling on negative experiences.
4. Using too many of the same words, such as: "Fantastic, exciting, great, awesome, etc."
5. Preaching. Just share you experience. Remember that it is God's
6. role to convict!



Biblical Models

Review the following examples and write your observations of each testimony using the suggested outline. What information is missing? What information was helpful in each example that enabled you to understand the decision(s) that had been made? What word pictures were used?

My life before knowing Christ.

Acts 9, 22, 26

Mark 5:1-20

John 4:4-43

John 9

<u>Apostle Paul</u>	<u>Demoniac</u>	<u>Samaritan Woman</u>	<u>Blind Man</u>
---------------------	-----------------	----------------------------	------------------

How I came to Christ.

<u>Apostle Paul</u>	<u>Demoniac</u>	<u>Samaritan Woman</u>	<u>Blind Man</u>
---------------------	-----------------	----------------------------	------------------

How my life has changed since I accepted Christ.

<u>Apostle Paul</u>	<u>Demoniac</u>	<u>Samaritan Woman</u>	<u>Blind Man</u>
---------------------	-----------------	----------------------------	------------------



Practical Models – NBA HALL OF FAMER

The Testimony of Dr. J's Life before Christ

"At age twenty-nine, I realized that I was looking good on the outside but was hitting a lot of peaks and valleys on the inside. After searching for the meaning of life for over ten years, I found the meaning in Jesus Christ."

How Dr. J met Christ

"When I gave my life to Jesus Christ, I began to understand my true purpose for being here. It's not to go through life an experience as many things as you possibly can and then turn to dust and be no more. The purposes in life are to be found through having Christ in your life and understanding what His plan is and following that plan."

Dr. J's life since he trusted Christ

"I know that my Christian faith has helped me put my priorities in order. If I put God number one and my family after that, along with my social existence and my job, I can withstand any attack, any criticism.

Since I asked Christ to be my Lord and Savior, there are still some peaks and valleys, but I am being operated on by the greatest Doctor of all time, so all the glory goes to Him."



Are you aware of any other celebrities who claim to be followers of Christ?

What evidences of their faith have you seen or heard?



www.gc3.org

Practical Models – Someone with an Early-Childhood Conversion

Christine: The early years

"I had parents who genuinely loved me and cared for me as a child. Even though we were not rich, my parents always provided for my most basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and love. Along with providing for my physical needs, my parents also made me aware of my equally important need of spiritual life."

How Christine met Christ

"When I was 5 years old, my father and I attended a funeral service. As I was walking through the cemetery grounds that morning, I asked my father a very basic question that I think we all ask sometime or another. That question was, 'Dad, where do we go when we die?' My father answered that question by using the Bible and showing me that there are two eternal destinations for mankind after death ... Heaven and Hell. He also told me that the Bible was written that we might know for certain that we can have eternal life ... in Heaven! (1 John 5:13) Dad told me that Heaven was the benefit given by God for those who would become Christ-followers. He said that following Christ was as simple as turning the dependency of my life over from a dependency on myself to a leaning on Jesus Christ."

Christine's life since she trusted Christ

"Since I've become a Christ-follower, I have never feared death because Christ has promised that as His follower, I will live eternally with Him in Heaven. Don't get me wrong my life isn't perfect. I still face many of the same problems that you do, but the assurance of eternal life gives me a peace and confidence in which to face these problems."



Practical Models – Grace Adult

I relate to Ariel from the movie "Footloose, " the daughter of a small town preacher. I worked hard to form my own identity separate from my father, because my father was a high profile person in our community. As a child I felt the way to do this was to question his chosen profession. I attended church every Sunday with the family but it was just like going grocery shopping every week with the family.

At 22 I left home for the National Civilian Community Corps. For the first time in my life I felt the need for the feeling of close family that you get when you are a member of a church. It was then that I realized the incredible gift I had my entire life, the gift of extended family, through the church members. During my year in the NCCC, away from home I grew into my own identity using the values I grew up with, including the importance of trusting and loving god.

I've known of the Lord for many years. I like to think of it as having a flashlight. I have had this flashlight for 27 years, but never turned it on - never made full use of what was freely available to me.

On September 2nd, 2002 I decided to not only turn the light on, but also let it lead me. I had been close to the Lord all of this time, knowing about Him but I had never been placed into a position where I was not and could not be in control. On that day I decided to put all my trust in the Lord and entered into a personal relationship with Him. In return, He put a peace in my heart that was unimaginable. In addition, the Lord made me His spiritual child, forgave my sins and gave me the gift of eternal life.

Becoming a Christian can happen in a moment if you ask Jesus to be your Savior. Once that happens, following Christ becomes a lifelong journey were you continue to grow and depend upon God in all areas of your life. Even in the midst of adversity, God will serve as a guiding light for your life.

Personal Testimony Worksheet



www.gc3.org

What key comments help you to identify the following three sections of this testimony?

My life before knowing Christ.

How I came to Christ.

How my life has changed since I accepted Christ.

Now it's your turn to write your own testimony. Be creative. Use the hints on the left as guidelines.

Helpful Hints

1. My life before Christ

- a. Include good elements of your life before Christ (i.e. moral, generous, church attender, good student, active in community).
- b. Identify one key problem (i.e. lack of peace, lack of purpose, pride, or wrong priorities) that characterized your life before you became a follower of Christ).
- c. Show how this problem affected your life.

Or the Early Years

- a. Tell of how you were provided for as a child (i.e. physical needs of food and shelter were provided for by parents).
- b. Tell of how your need for a personal relationship with God was made evident (i.e. at the age of ___ I became aware of my spiritual need for "knowing God").

How I met Christ

- a. Be specific.
- b. Avoid confusing statements (i.e. "I went forward" or "I marked a decision card"). Also avoid Christian jargon like, "I was redeemed by the propitiatory, substitutionary death of the Lamb."
- c. Talk about Christ and His work (this is actually a gospel presentation within your testimony).

My life since I trusted Christ

- a. Tell of how Christ dealt with your problem mentioned in 1b or, if yours was an early childhood conversion, give an example of a positive benefit of following Christ (i.e. peace, hope of eternal life, no fear of death, forgiveness of sin, purposeful life).
- b. Be honest. Not all of your problems have been eliminated in this life.
- c. Include a personal appeal to know God personally.

Notes and comments for your testimony



My Testimony Work Sheet

My life before knowing Christ:

How I came to trust Christ:

My life after I received Christ:

