



# Telling Your Story

## How to Prepare a Personal Testimony

*“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord...” 2 Timothy 1:7-8a*

### The Importance of Testimony

The most powerful tool we Christians have is our story, or testimony. People always want to be able to answer the tough apologetic questions, like “How can a good and loving God allow suffering?” And yes, there is an appropriate response to these questions. But the most important thing is for each of us to be able to share our own story of how the gospel has impacted our life. That is the one thing with which no one can argue. This tool helps you develop and tell your story, so you’ll be prepared beforehand.

### How to Prepare

To start, focus on a specific time when you experienced God and were changed because of it. For many people, this may be your “conversion” story (or when you first came into relationship with God). For others, perhaps a better story is when God revealed himself in the midst of a tragedy, an addiction, or a major decision. For many students, they experienced God in college when their faith became their very own.

It may prove helpful to prepare several stories so that you’ll have the ability to share the right story with the right person. The Holy Spirit knows how you can best connect with someone, and what they need to hear at that moment.

When going through this worksheet, try to be as specific and concrete as possible, and use as little “religious” or “spiritual” language as you can. You may want to practice sharing your story with a few trusted friends, eventually not needing any notes.

Shoot for 2 minutes, because even a stranger can listen for 2 minutes without feeling bored or offended. When you’re sharing, it is much easier to expand it in the moment and make it 5 or even 10 minutes, rather than try to shorten it.



**My Story about:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Before:** What was your life like before an encounter with Jesus?
- 2. The Journey:** What were the specific events that led you to encounter Jesus?
- 3. The Decision:** How did you respond to this encounter with Jesus?
- 4. After:** What has been the positive change in your life since that decision?

