

The 3 key markers of intentionality in a Good News Person are:

PRAYER, CARE and **SHARE**



PRAYER

Praying by name for people who don't yet know Jesus!



CARE

Show up! Listen well! Invest in authentic friendships!



SHARE

Tell your story! Share the Good News! Mention Jesus in everyday conversations!

Share your story with Jesus

- John 9 – The man born blind didn't eloquently articulate the specifics of the gospel, but he adamantly declared the impact Jesus had on his life.

Our culture is obsessed with "lived experience" as the highest source of truth or meaning. We can capitalize on that instinct by being ready to authentically and boldly share examples of the difference that Jesus has made in our everyday lives.

Share the story of Jesus

• Why?

Do we have to share? (1 Peter 3:15)

- We as followers of Jesus must be ready to give an answer for the hope that we have. We don't have to know everything, but that doesn't release us from the need to know how Jesus provides hope.

• What?

So what do I say? (Romans 6:23)

- We share the core truths of the Good News as expressed in the Scriptures.
- Pick a tool that makes sense to you and use it! (See the other side of this handout for a place to start!)

• Who?

Who is this all about? (John 1:14, 14:6; Philippians 2:6-7)

- The Good News is a person you can know, not just facts you can learn

THE STORY OF JESUS

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

CHAPTER ONE:

God created a good world. He made us to know Him and live in a relationship with Him. That’s our original design. But we can all feel that in our world, something’s not right. So, what should we do? Instead of seeing this brokenness as proof that God is absent or that His plan has failed, we should see this universal experience of brokenness as shared ground between Christians and everyone else. (Acts 17:26–27)

CHAPTER TWO:

So what’s the source of this universal brokenness? Well, instead of trusting God, we turned away. We live in active rebellion (called sin) against our design and our designer, and this inevitably hurts us, those around us, and the one who made us. The consequences are real: spiritual death, separation from God, and the painful brokenness we see all around. Sadly, we can’t fix it, clean ourselves up, or earn our way back. We don’t need a moral upgrade; we need rescue. (John 8:34, Titus 3:3–5a)

CHAPTER THREE:

BUT... Jesus stepped into our story, took our sin on Himself, and died the death we deserved. He rose again to offer us the forgiveness, rescue and new life we needed. It is not something we earn; it is a free gift God offers to anyone who trusts in Jesus. (John 3:16)

CHAPTER FOUR:

That seems too good to be true, doesn’t it? Yet the proof that this is the true solution is the empty tomb. Jesus predicted (and then pulled off) His own resurrection from the dead, confirming everything else He said and did, demonstrating He has real authority over sin and death. It proves He is who He says He is! He is the Son of God. (Luke 24:6–7; John 2:18–22; Acts 2:22–24; Acts 17:31)

CHAPTER FIVE:

So what do we do? God invites us to respond to Jesus with trust, turning from our old life and turning toward Him. When we believe in Him and accept what He’s done, we’re forgiven, made new and restored to the relationship we were created for: back into alignment with God’s good design. (Mark 1:15; John 1:12; John 15:4–5; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19)

THE GOOD NEWS: **ROMANS 6:23**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

1. **WAGES (Sin → Death)**

“For the wages of sin is death...”

- **WAGES** are what you earn. They’re not random or unfair. They’re the natural result of your choices. In real life, if you work a job, you get paid. Spiritually, our choices also lead somewhere.
- **SIN** isn’t just about breaking rules. It’s living life disconnected from God, trusting ourselves instead of the God who made us. Sin appears in selfishness, pride, control, and trying to define good and evil on our own terms.
- That disconnection isn’t just theoretical. We see it in broken families, anxiety, shame, injustice, and the feeling that something isn’t right—both in the world and inside us.
- **DEATH** in the Bible means more than physical death. It’s spiritual separation from God, the loss of the life, peace, and wholeness we were created for.
- This isn’t saying God is cruel; it’s saying God is honest and just. When we turn away from the source of life, the result is death—just like cutting a branch off a tree eventually kills it.

2. **GIFT (God → Life)**

“...but the free gift of God is eternal life...”

- A **GIFT** is the opposite of wages. You don’t earn it, deserve it, or pay it back; you either receive it or reject it. That’s why the gospel isn’t about trying harder.
- This gift is free, but it isn’t cheap. It costs us nothing to receive, but it costs God everything to give. Grace means God does for us what we can’t do for ourselves.
- **GOD** isn’t a distant force or energy. He’s the personal Creator who knows you, sees your story, and desires a relationship, not religion.
- **ETERNAL LIFE** doesn’t just mean “life after death.” It means real life starting now—forgiveness instead of guilt, purpose instead of drift, hope instead of despair, and life that continues beyond the grave.

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- *Where sin leads to death, God offers life—not as a reward for good behavior, but as an act of mercy and compassion to people who need rescue.*

3. JESUS (His Death → Our Life)

“...in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- **JESUS** is a real historical person who lived, taught, was executed, and rose from the dead. He’s not a myth or merely a moral teacher. His resurrection from the dead is why people have been talking about Him for 2,000 years.
- **CHRIST** means Messiah. It’s God’s chosen one and King. It points to Jesus as the one God promised to send to fix what’s broken—not only in the world but also in us.
- Jesus lived the life we were meant to live—trusting God fully—and then died in our place, bearing the consequences of sin onto Himself.
- When Jesus rose from the dead, it proved that death doesn’t have the final say and that God accepted what Jesus did for us.
- Calling Jesus **LORD** means trusting Him to lead your life—not because He controls, but because He guides us toward freedom, healing, and truth.

OUR CHOICE: **WAGES OR GIFT**

Romans 6:23 shows us that we have a choice to make.

- 1) Keep earning wages that lead to death
- 2) Or receive a free gift that leads to life

Trusting Jesus, or having faith in Him, means turning from running your own life your own way and placing your reliance and confidence in Him. It’s not just believing facts about Him, but building a relationship with Him and letting Him lead your life.

A PRAYER YOU CAN PRAY: **A.B.C.D.**

Dear God,

A — ADMIT

I admit that something in me is broken. I admit that I’ve lived life on my own terms and pushed You away. I admit that I’ve sinned — not just through my actions, but also by

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craving control instead of trusting You. I can't fix myself, and I admit I need help!

B — BELIEVE

I believe that Jesus is real — that He lived, died and rose again. I believe that when Jesus died on the cross, He took my sin and its consequences on Himself. I believe His death was more than enough to restore my relationship with You. I believe His resurrection means true new life is possible.

C — COMMIT

I choose to trust Jesus. I commit to turning away from my old way of living and learning to follow Him instead. I'm not just asking You to help my life, I'm inviting You to lead it. I want Jesus to be my Lord, the one I trust and follow every day.

D — DEPEND

God, I'm depending on You now. Forgive me, make me new, and teach me how to walk with You. Help me grow, change and trust You, even when it's hard. Thank You for loving me, welcoming me to the family, and giving me new life through Jesus.

Amen.

MY 15-SECOND TESTIMONY

*“When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the **testimony** about God.” (1 Corinthians 2:11b NIV)*

To be intentional, Good News People, we need to have a variety of tools ready for the various moments the Holy Spirit provides. Here is one tool to help you share your testimony.

We'll start off very short, then expand our testimony to two minutes, and from there, we can customize it to be as long as needed. This tool is from our global partner, Gideon Banda, called the “**15-Second Testimony**.”

You can find a short video explaining the tool here: <https://youtu.be/hkprflNySS8>

You are only learning **3 sentences**. Here are the steps to develop your 15-Second Testimony:

FIRST SENTENCE

1. Memorize the intro: ***“There was a time in my life...”***
2. Choose **two words that describe your life before Jesus**. If you can't remember the exact moment, you became a follower of Jesus, that's okay! Just think about a time or situation when Jesus rescued you.
 - For example: “selfish” and “I had no purpose.” Feel free to use the chart below to write down your two words.
3. Then, **create your first sentence**: *“There was a time in my life when I was very lonely and I had no purpose.”*

Write your **first sentence** below:

SECOND SENTENCE

4. Memorize the transition phrase: ***“But then I met Jesus, and he forgave me of my sins, and I began to follow him...”*** If this phrase sounds unnatural to you, create a similar phrase that better expresses how you feel.
5. Choose **two words that describe your life now that you are following Jesus**. For example: “loved” and “full of purpose.” Write your two words in the chart below.

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6. Then, **combine your second sentence:** *"But then I met Jesus, he forgave me of my sins, and I began to follow him, and now my life is full of purpose and I feel loved."*

Write your **second sentence** below:

THIRD SENTENCE

7. Memorize the last sentence - which is a question: ***"Do you have a story like that?"***

Putting it all together, here is what 15-Second Testimony sounds like:

"There was a time in my life when I felt very lonely and lacked purpose. But then I met Jesus, who forgave me of my sins, and I began to follow Him. Now, my life is filled with purpose, and I feel loved. Do you have a story like that?"

Intro —————→ **Jesus** —————→ **Ask?**

There was a
time in my life...



Do you have a
story like that?

Now write your three sentences all together in the space provided below. If you've already done this, consider writing a different testimony of when Jesus rescued you.

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12)

MY TWO-MINUTE STORY

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)

The “15-Second Testimony” is one tool we already have in our toolbelt. Let’s now double-click and expand this testimony. The Two Minute Story expands our 15-Second Testimony and makes it a little longer. This tool will help you be ready when the Holy Spirit opens a door to share more about how Jesus has changed your life.

Good stories have an arc, which means they have a **setting, climax and resolution**. We don’t all have clean life stories with clear beginning, middle and end. When you develop your own story, think about these key elements:

- In the **BEGINNING (SETTING)**, describe your life before Jesus in two words, just like you did for your 15-Second Testimony (such as “meaningless” or “lonely”), but this time, elaborate in a few sentences.
- In the **MIDDLE (CLIMAX)**, tell us more about how Jesus rescued you from your sins. Bring us to an actual moment. Make sure you make Jesus the hero of your story! Aim for two or three sentences. Don’t feel like you need to write a full theological defense of the gospel. Be brief!
- In the **END (RESOLUTION)**, describe your life after Jesus in two words, just like you did for your 15-Second Testimony (such as “full of purpose” or “loved”), but this time, elaborate in a few sentences.

Can’t remember when you put your faith in Jesus? What if you feel like you don’t have a story? That’s okay! Just think about how Jesus has changed you recently. How has Jesus helped you or healed you? How has He rescued you from one of your struggles with sin or a conflict lately? What is one way Jesus has brought hope/joy/peace into your life recently? It can be that simple. People want and need to hear real and authentic experiences. **Here are the questions to ask yourself:**

	SALVATION STORY	SPECIFIC SITUATION STORY
SETTING	What were two ways your life was different before starting a relationship with Jesus?	What is one area of your life where you have needed to surrender to Jesus since beginning following him? What were two ways your life was different before Jesus rescued you from your sin struggle?
CLIMAX	How did Jesus meet you and rescue you from your sins?	How did Jesus rescue you from your sin struggle or conflict? How is it that Jesus helped you or healed you?
RESOLUTION	What are two ways your life is better now after becoming a disciple of Jesus?	What are two ways your life is better after Jesus rescued you? What does your life look like now that Jesus has helped you or brought healing to this area of your life?

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Here are some pro tips for writing your Two Minute Story.

- Create intrigue. Make your story “double-click-able.”
- Make it sound natural without using Christian jargon like “saved,” “born again,” or “converted.”
- Make it relatable.
- Don’t feel like you need to say everything. If the Holy Spirit is at work, you’ll have another chance to share more.
- Don’t make people think that everything is perfect after becoming a follower of Jesus.

Here is Pastor Allen Smith’s example.

*“There was a time in my life when I was very **lonely** and had **no purpose**. Even though I knew a lot of people, I felt like no one really knew me. Also, I was pushed into medicine, so I went to college to become a medical doctor. The more I studied at college, the more meaningless life was. So I looked for meaning in DJing parties, in running for class president, in romantic relationships, but all of them turned out empty. During this time my parents went through a divorce and I lost all sense of meaning and felt utterly alone.*

One day at my college dorm, my next door neighbor shared with me how God loves me and has a plan for my life. I heard the great news that Jesus died for my sins and gives me a new purpose. I couldn’t believe it! That day I met Jesus and he changed me.

*For the next few weeks, I sensed God’s love. Shortly after, He brought many amazing friends into my life, one of which I married! He also gave me a new purpose that has taken me to Guatemala, Peru, and now Annapolis. Though my life has been far from perfect, ever since I met Jesus, I have been **loved** and my life is now **full of purpose**.*

How about you, has anything like that ever happened to you?”

WRITE DOWN A ROUGH DRAFT OF YOUR TWO MINUTE STORY – ON NEXT PAGE

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WRITE DOWN A ROUGH DRAFT OF YOUR TWO MINUTE STORY:

SETTING: "THERE WAS A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN..."

CLIMAX: "ONE DAY..."

RESOLUTION:

How about you, has anything like that ever happened to you?"