

Story #9: My Story

2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Corinthians 15:1-3

Your personal story about walking with Jesus is one of the most vital tools you possess. We have been learning about the stories of real people, including the foundational story of Jesus Himself. **Your testimony is the essential next step: it is the living, breathing proof that the God who acted in history is still active today.** It transforms faith acquired from an abstract ideas and individuals into a relatable, tangible experience others can hold on to on this chaotic and dark world

Your story is not isolated; it is the next chapter in the much larger, unified narrative of God. Every personal testimony of rescue, guidance, and transformation is simply God's grand story being told through a new voice in a new time.

Because we have been focusing on the stories of real people, your personal account is often the primary way God will speak to those around you. When people see that the ancient God of the Bible is real, that He transforms neighbors, friends, family members, and you, it validates the historical accounts. **Your experience acts as a powerful, personal bridge, drawing them not just into a interesting discussion about people who lived in another time, but into the living story you are now a part of.**

Eight Instructions for Telling Your Personal Story

Your personal story is a powerful piece of living proof that validates the historical stories we've been studying. God planned for you to be here now, giving you a platform to share His grand story.

- **Recognize Your God-Given Platform:** Acknowledge that your specific circumstances—where you live, work, play, and worship—are intentionally orchestrated by God to give you a platform to speak to those He has placed around you.
- **Highlight the "Crossroads" Moment:** Clearly structure your story to show the "before and after"—the moment you came to believe in Messiah Jesus. This

transformation is the "crossroad" that demonstrates the power of the Gospel and invites others to consider their own lives.

- **Connect Your Change to the Central Gospel Message:** Do not let your story stand alone. Explicitly tie your personal forgiveness and transformation to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. This connects your individual experience to the larger, unified Story of God's glory.
- **Focus on God's Action and Greatness:** Center your narrative on what God did for you, not just the struggle you went through. Your testimony is powerful because it proves that the God whose stories we have been learning is active and accessible today.
- **Master Your Story for Multiplication (Disciple-Maker Mandate):** View learning your story as a training exercise. The ultimate goal is to teach your disciples how to write and tell their own stories, ensuring the message spreads exponentially and fulfills the command to make disciples who make disciples.
- **Be Ready for Fruit:** Be confident that by telling your story clearly and connecting it to the larger narrative, you are being used by the Lord to draw others into His story. Sharing this fruit ensures that you will one day hear, "Well done."
- **Use Scripture in Your Story:** Memorize and integrate 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 (the core Gospel message) and 2 Corinthians 5:17 (the resulting new creation) directly into your story. You are also encouraged to use other personal, key Bible passages of your own choosing that illustrate God's work in your life.
- **Clarify the "Simple Act of Belief":** Explain clearly that becoming a disciple of Jesus starts with a simple act of belief in what God has perfectly done for us through Jesus—a work we could never accomplish on our own (forgiveness and new life). This emphasizes that salvation is a gift received, not a work earned.

Things To Think About

If you have learned all of the stories up this point, you have done a lot of work. Telling your own story ties them all together to those you have been telling them to. Your story is critical to the larger story. It answers the "So What?" question many are thinking. Your story questions connects you to something bigger. Telling it is a crossroad moment connecting you to Jesus and His place in the larger biblical narrative. It establishes you as disciple who makes more disciples.

1. The Foundation of Belief: We've learned the stories of real people, including Jesus. What specific claims made about Jesus Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1–3)—finally convinced you that they were true and provided forgiveness for your sin?

2. Your Chapter in the Grand Story: How does your personal story of faith and the new creation you became (2 Corinthians 5:17) connect to the other Stories of God you have learned? Do you see themes of rescue, calling, or transformation that mirror those historical accounts?

3. The Resonating Witness: Of all the biblical accounts we've explored, is there one particular Story of God (e.g., Peter, Mary Magdalene, the prodigal son) that uniquely resonates with your own personal journey and the life-altering crossroads you experienced?

4. Leveraging Your Platform: Knowing that God intentionally placed you in your time and location (your platform), are you ready to use the Stories of God—starting with your own simple act of belief—to disciple unsaved people toward their own belief in Jesus?

5. The Multiplication Mandate: Are you ready to disciple new believers toward personal obedience to the Great Commission by mastering and teaching them how to write and tell their stories (Instruction #5) so they can, in turn, make more disciples everywhere?

6. The Power of Simplicity and Scripture: How can you ensure your story remains focused on the simple act of belief in what God has done for us (Instruction #8), while still clearly weaving in key scripture like 1 Corinthians 15:1–3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Instruction #7)?

7. Your Next Step: How can Disciple Daily or your current training best equip you to move from simply *knowing* the stories to actively *using* them—especially your own—to fulfill your role as a Master Builder's tool?