

Sharing Your Testimony!

Share 30 seconds of your life before Christ

- What was my life like that will relate most to the non-Christian?
- What did my life revolve around the most? What did I get my security or happiness from?
- How did those areas begin to let me down?

30 seconds of your salvation experience

- When was the first time I heard the Gospel (or was exposed to dynamic Christianity)?
- What were my initial reactions?
- When did my attitude begin to turnaround? Why?
- What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before accepting Christ?
- Why did I go ahead and accept Christ?

30 seconds of your life after Christ

- Specific changes and illustrations about the changes Christ has made?
 - Why am I motivated differently?
 - Is there a Scripture that has special meaning to your life?
 - **What's the best thing about knowing Jesus?**
1. Authentic story without being obscene - there needs to be enough detail to help others grasp the difficulty of the situation and / or the hideousness of the sin. Generalities "life was good as a teen" or "college was tough" rarely provide connection points for others to focus. Nor is it helpful for people to walk away and only focus on the sins of the story (Pro. 15:2). The OT Narratives seem to give pointed detail, yet only front the grotesqueness of sin when it is redemptively helpful.
 2. Authoritative word connected to the story - what specific verse directly confronts / provides for / redeems the story. If the story is vivid and pointed with specific interactions, but no word from the Lord is spoken it is easy for there to be communication about a moving experience, but not illumination for their struggles and troubles (Heb. 4:12).
 3. Awesome Savior - Christ is the hero of our stories (Luke 24:27). Our stories are only understood in connection to his story. Therefore because his story ends well; our story ends well (1 Cor. 15).

Helpful Hints

- Pray before you write out and share your story. Ask God for wisdom and the words to say.
- Write the way you speak.
- Be honest.
- Practice your testimony out loud several times until you feel comfortable with it.
- Do not use cuss words when sharing your testimony!
- Depending on the situation or the setting and the amount of time that you have, some would encourage you to have a 1-minute, 3-minute, 5-minute, 10-minute and longer versions of your testimony.

Different Approaches to Writing a Testimony—

A life map – where you essentially make a time line of your life story and discuss the big mile stones/seasons of life

A story board –when you draw out symbols or take pictures to discuss the big things in your life that affect you/your relationship to Christ

Discipleship share--which is where you talk about 3-8 relationships that have shaped you as a person and how those relationships have drawn you closer to Christ (for instance my Dad: first person to show me God's love, Meg: first best friend I ever had that taught me grace, Grayson: first mentor to show me discipleship, Katie: grad student who taught me about walking in God's confidence/humility)