

Galatians 1.11-24 Paul's story

Paul's story includes

1. What he was like before Christ.
2. How he found Christ.
3. What happened at the very point you decided to receive Christ (Acts 9).
4. What Christ means to him now.

1. Our Story has purpose

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:10, NASB95

2. Our Story has a "former manner of life" (1.13)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

3. Our story has a new life. (1.15-16)

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20, NASB95)

4. Our story will glorify God

"And they were glorifying God because of me." Galatians 1:24, NASB95

The Four Points of Sharing Your Jesus Story

1. What you were like before you became a Christian.
2. How you became a Christian. What drew you to Christ.
3. What happened at the very point when you finally agreed in your heart to become a follower of Christ.
4. What life is like now.

Remember

1. Everyone is on a spiritual journey. This conversation is part of their story.
2. You have the power of Jesus in you, the Holy Spirit.
3. God desires to use your story and you to help others know Christ.
4. Be Prepared, know the key verses, and pray daily for opportunities.
5. Practice your story.
6. Ask Permission: "May I take a moment and tell you a little of my spiritual experience?"
7. Practice Incarnational Listening.
8. Sharing your story is not accomplishing a task; it's about being Compelled by God's love.
9. Share it in under 3 minutes without talking fast.

How to help someone receive Christ. The ABC's of Salvation

- A. Ask - They ask Jesus to forgive them and come in their heart.
- B. Believe He is the Son of God and their Savior.
- C. Confess – Tell a few people you are now a follower of Christ.

Who needs to hear your story?

Some guidelines in how to share your story:

- **Keep it short.** Three to five minutes is good. If it is too long, too detailed, or hangs out all our dirty washing, it might turn people away.
- **Keep it real.** Don't pretend that the Christian walk is a path of unending glory; it isn't. It is full of challenges, failures, getting up, and trying again. It is walking with God as we are.
- **Keep it centered on God and not just yourself.** Remember, this is not only your story; it is God's story as well, of how he has been working in you, through you, and with you.

Some attitudes that are good to develop as you share your story with people:

- **Be prepared.** Take the time to think through what you would like to say if someone asks you about your faith. 1 Peter 3:15 *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 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."*
- **Be respectful.** Ask permission to share, and if the person does not want to hear, respect their wish. If they do want to hear, speak graciously. Colossians 4:6 *"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."*
- **Be caring.** If, when you are sharing, the person begins to tell of their journey in life, and their struggles, take the time to listen and care.
- **Be authentic.** Don't put on airs of being perfect, or sorted, or having all knowledge. You don't. If the person asks you questions and you don't know the answer, just say so, and that you will get back to them.

Four things you to include in your testimony (read Acts 22:1-21):

- 1. What you were like before you became a Christian.**
- 2. How you became a Christian, what drew you to Christ.**
- 3. What happened at the very point when you finally agreed in your heart that you wanted God to be a part of your life permanently.**
 - Was someone there who guided you in prayer? Did you reach out your hand to heaven and invite Jesus in?
 - Or did you know that something had changed, that God had come into the picture of your life?
- 4. What life is like now.**
 - Give an example. Share what God means to you now.

Remember, just as we are God's precious children, and so is everyone else in the world. They don't know it. After you have shared a part, or all of your story, you might see a keen interest in the person who is listening. Ask them if they would like to ask Jesus into their heart. If they would, ask them if they would be willing to do it right then and there. Be ready with a prayer to share with them.