

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

God is a great storyteller! Some have described history as "His Story" because He is sovereign over the affairs of mankind. The Bible is 75% narrative, or story. When Jesus came to show us what God was like he came telling stories. A famous movie about the life of Christ is titled, "The Greatest Story Ever Told"! God loves a good story and likes to have it told over and over.

YOU TOO HAVE A STORY TO TELL! When God comes into your life you can never be the same again. Your life story is changed forever. Being able to briefly tell your unique life story and how you came to trust in Christ as your personal Savior is very valuable. The Apostle Peter encouraged us this way:

"But in your hearts set apart 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..."

Jesus left his disciples with this promise and commandment:

"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus Christ really needs you and me to share "our story" with whomever we can because it gives people a contemporary validation of Christ's story, the Gospel. Ordinary people like you and me need to hear how Christ has changed our lives since He became our Savior. It is both a privilege and a serious responsibility. Our story may help someone begin to understand the Gospel.

As part of the membership process here at Crossroads Fellowship we would like to help you reflect on your unique story and practice telling it one time in a very casual and informal way during the Discovery (membership) Class. This is not a pressured, graded or highly organized thing; please do not get worried. It is a simple way for new members to get acquainted with other new members and Discovery Class leaders who will also share their stories.

The following pages contain helpful suggestions and guidelines for organizing some facts or thoughts you may want to be sure to include in sharing your unique story. We hope they are helpful to you. If you can do this sort of thing off the cuff that is fine too. The bottom line here is that we want you to know we value your unique life story and feel honored that Crossroads Fellowship has now become a part of it.

IDEAS FOR WRITING YOUR STORY:

These guidelines will help you keep in mind those who will listen to the brief explanation of your life BEFORE you received Christ, the simple and explicit explanation of HOW you received Christ, and realistically what your life has been like AFTER you received Christ.

Remember you want pre-Christians to hear and understand your story. Therefore, you will want to avoid using Christian terminology they would not understand or if you must then make sure it is explained simply and clearly.

Imagine that you might be stranded in an airport in a far off city due to inclement weather. While passing the time you are able to get somewhat acquainted with fellow travelers in the same circumstance. Assume they did not grow up in a church family and know little or nothing about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All they might know is the Hollywood caricatures they have seen of Christians. Your brief three or four minute story may be the first believable authentic encounter they have ever had with a Christian.

Keep in mind that your story may be the only truth you can share when interacting with pre-Christians. Therefore, your hope is that a pre-Christian would be able to go home and invite Christ to be his/her Savior after hearing your story because you thought it through before you ever presented it.

If you received Christ as a child, notice the following guidelines:

If you cannot remember details of "before" and "how", then emphasize your life since you received Christ.

Specifics to mention:

Growing in Christ toward more understanding.

How Christ has helped in school, marriage, children, job.

Being raised in a Christian home.

Remember! Knowing when Christ came into your life is not so important as knowing that He is in your life.

Use this simple outline to prepare your brief testimony:

BEFORE I received Christ...

HOW I received Christ (be very specific, yet not wordy)...

AFTER I received Christ (be honest; Christians have problems, also)...

Use the questions on the next page to evaluate your testimony and guide you in revising it, if necessary, for greater effectiveness.

SHARING YOUR STORY:

The Bible is a book about Jesus meeting people--and about people who met Jesus. Jesus encountered a variety of people with different personalities and backgrounds. The common thread in all their lives was that Jesus changed them.

Every Christian (disciple) has a story to tell of how they met Jesus as their Savior and what He means in their life. The next few pages will assist you in writing out your story.

Turn in the Bible and read Luke 8:26-39. This is a dramatic example but it can help us think about our life before and after meeting Christ. Take notes below as you answer the questions related to the story of the demon-possessed man.

Before he met Jesus his life was:

How he met Jesus:

Since he met Jesus his life was:

Notice how there are three parts to his story: BEFORE he knew Jesus, HOW he came to meet him, and SINCE he met Jesus.

On the next page jot down ideas on the following three points (before, how, and after). Read through the following pages to help you with your story. Tell your story by writing it out on the page entitled "My Story". Don't worry about spelling or grammar--you may even want to simply write an outline to use as a reminder when telling your story.

You may not have a "dramatic" story before you met Jesus. Perhaps you grew up in a Christian home or knew Christ early as a child. Maybe you lived a clean moral life before trusting Christ. That's good. A lot of decent people are without Christ. If this is your story then begin it with, "I met Jesus as a child" or "I was a decent moral person before seeing my need for Christ" and continue with the third part, "Since I met Jesus." Remember that this third section is the most important part of your story.

BEFORE I MET JESUS MY LIFE WAS: Try to remember the things you felt were wrong in your life before you became a Christian.

HOW I MET JESUS: How did you decide to follow Jesus? What things happened in your life that caused you to discover Jesus and commit your life to Him?

SINCE I MET JESUS: What are the benefits of being a Christian? How has Jesus changed (and is changing) your life?

NAME: _____

MY STORY
How I Became a Christian