

Developing Your Story

The following outline will help you develop a concise 3-5 minute testimony of your story. There is no need to go into deep details about your past sins because the main point is that you tell HIS story and how HIS story has shaped your story. In developing your story, you need to ask yourself, “Will they know basic truths about Christ, or only know you better?” Both should happen and many times details about yourself can be very helpful, however we want to make sure that they know whom Christ is and how he has affected your life. (Use some of the phrases after each heading to help you emphasize on important things.)

1. What I was like...(Possibly tell about family, friends, what your interests were... , My security [what I valued] was... , My religious background and attitude about Christ was... *It is crucial to incorporate in this section the truth of Romans 3:23 and 6:23. We are all sinners in need of a Savior.*)

What God used to begin opening my eyes...("I was awakened to my need by [people, books, meeting, circumstances]...What I thought and/or noticed [about myself, God, others] at this point was...")?

2. What I came to understand...(I came to understand that Jesus is... , I saw my need for a savior when... , I turned [repented] from my sin... , and trusted in Jesus' work on the cross as payment for my sins and I believed and trusted in him as my savior. *Be sure to incorporate the truths of Ephesians 2:8-9: “By grace you have been saved through faith”, and John 1:12: “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God”*).

3. How Christ is affecting my life...(I am now able to cultivate a relationship with God as my father through the work of the cross... , I am thankful that my sins have been paid for and my attitude toward sin has changed... , My desires now are... , I'm now doing... , How I am cultivating my life with Jesus in the context of other believers... *Incorporate 2 Corinthians 5:17: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away and all things have become new”*).

Below is a sample story that communicates the gospel and tells the story of how a particular person came to Christ. Notice he put each Scripture he paraphrased in parentheses. Even though you may not recite the Scripture in your story, it is important not only to know the truth but also to know where it can be found.

My Story

1. While growing up, my family always went to Church on Sunday. My parents were adamant about the necessity of being in Church Sunday mornings, however we never seemed to get involved in any church we went to. I grew up with the mentality that church was just something we did on Sunday. I thought church was a religious ritual people did on Sundays to feel better about their lives. Even though I appeared to be a good kid, I knew I was a sinner (Romans 3:23) but thought little about it. The person and work of Jesus meant nothing to me. I knew there were worse people in the world so I thought I was ok. I felt little to no remorse in my sin because I found my acceptance and security in my popularity and success on the soccer field.

God began to open my eyes to my need of a savior through a Youth Pastor named Paul. My sophomore year of high school, Paul began to call me, take me out to lunch, and invite me into his home. He invested time explaining God's love for me in sending His own Son to provide a way to become right with Him. I heard growing up in church that sin separated humanity from God but all of these things were never really a reality for me. Scriptures that I heard as a child began to become real as Paul taught them to me.

2. As Paul continued to invest his time in teaching me the Scripture, God used his efforts to convict me of my sin and call upon His name to receive salvation (Romans 10:13). I came to the realization that my sin not only would send me to hell, but also separated me from having a relationship with God. The notion of being able to have a personal relationship with God was a completely new concept for me. For the longest time, I had it in my mind that I needed to be good to be a Christian. Paul explained to me that people are saved by God's grace through faith in the work of Christ, not the things they do (Ephesians 2:8-9). It was like I was hearing the truths I had heard in church growing up for the first time. After about ten months of meeting with Paul and as a junior in high school, I repented of my sin and trusted Christ as my Lord and Savior. I finally understood and experienced the hope of being a child of God (John 1:12)

3. Since I received Christ, I have grown in my understanding of who I am in Christ. Not only have I been given eternal life, but the life that I now live on earth has a whole new meaning. The Bible teaches that If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). As a human I understand there will always be a struggle against sin while on earth, however God has given me a new desire to please Him and give Him glory in everything I do. After following Jesus for several years, God impressed on my heart and confirmed through His Word a calling to communicate His Gospel to the nations (Matthew 28:18-20). My wife and I are now currently preparing to go to an unreached area of the world to share Christ and plant churches.