

- God allows us to have many experiences in our lives so we can relate to others in similar situations who need the Lord!
- Different situations will require different testimonies!
- Choose the testimony that best matches your listener.
- Realize you can tell about how others' lives have been changed, too.
- Don't use religious terms, clichés or broad generalities.
- Ask, "If I were an unbeliever, would this make sense to me?"



SHARING MY TESTIMONY

- It is unique – there are no others just like it.
- It is personal and easy to understand.
- I am the authority on it, so it is difficult to argue with.
- People love a personal story – and remember it.
- People can relate to it, so it builds a relational bridge.
- In a postmodern world, it is the most effective witness.

TRANSLATING CHRISTIAN TERMS

CHRISTIAN TERM ...	WHEN TALKING TO UNBELIEVERS ...
"Blessed"	"Happy"
"I was born again"	"I was given a fresh, new start"
"I was saved"	"My life changed at that moment"
"Jesus is my Lord"	"Jesus is the manager (or CEO) of my life"
"I repented"	"I put Jesus in the driver's seat"
	"I changed my way of thinking"
	"I made a mental U-turn"
"I had sinned"	"I knew I'd blown it"
"All are sinners"	"Nobody's perfect"
	"No one bats 1000"
"I felt convicted"	"I realized"
"The Holy Ghost"	"God's Spirit"
"It was glorious"	"It was an incredible experience"
"The Lord laid on my heart"	"I felt"
"Praise the Lord"	"I'm really thankful to God"
"Hallelujah"	"Living for God is exciting"

HOW TO LEAD INTO YOUR TESTIMONY

- Listen for problems or needs that Jesus has helped you with.
- Refer to a news item dealing with a common need or problem.
- Start with a statement they'd agree with or a situation they relate to.
- Apologize to people you've known a long time but not witnessed to.

1. BECOME AWARE
2. COMMIT TO PRAYER
3. SHOW YOU CARE
4. BE READY TO SHARE

Life
notes

FOUR PARTS OF MY TESTIMONY

1. What my life was like before I met Christ. (LEAST TIME)
 - What common circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?
 - What were your attitudes that an unbeliever would identify with?
 - What was most important to you?
 - What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life? (sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, sex, making money, drugs/alcohol, having fun, entertainment, popularity, hobbies)
2. How I realized I needed Christ. (MORE TIME)
 - What significant steps led up to your conversion?
 - What needs, hurts or problems made you dissatisfied with the way you were living without God?
 - How did God get your attention?
 - What motivated you?
3. How I committed my life to Christ. (EVEN MORE TIME)
 - What specifically did you do?
 - Where did it happen?
 - What did you say in your prayer? (be specific)
4. The difference Christ has made in my life. (MOST TIME)
 - What benefits have you experienced or felt?
 - What problems have been resolved? (give current example)
 - How has Jesus helped you change for the better?
 - How has Jesus helped you in your relationships?

- If you became a Christian AS AN ADULT, use the four basic steps to compose your testimony.
- If you became a Christian AT AN EARLY AGE BUT WALKED AWAY, use the same four steps but start with the time just prior to your RECOMMITMENT.
- If you became a Christian AT AN EARLY AGE AND NEVER STRAYED, use the same four steps but point out some deep need or common problem that others struggle with, and explain why you never had to experience it.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING

- Pray and ask God to give you the right words.
- Write it out on paper. God honors preparation.
- Keep it short and to the point. Don't lose sight of your goal.
- Be succinct. Avoid excessive, unnecessary details.
- Try to keep your testimony below three minutes.
- Refer to experiences most people have in common.
- Share a slice of your life (a story) that they will identify with.
- Be honest about your continuing struggles. Your life is not perfect.
- Don't imply that all of your problems ended at conversion.
- Spend the most time on Part Four – the difference Christ has made.
- Emphasize WHY you received Christ (the benefits of doing it).
- Mention the benefit of being certain of your destiny when you die.
- Don't exaggerate or brag about pre-conversion sins.
- Don't make negative remarks about other religions or people.
- Don't mention any denomination.
- Don't quote a lot of Scripture (a maximum of one or two verses).
- Don't answer questions they haven't asked.
- Give concrete examples of the changes in your life.
- The more specific you are, the more dynamic it will be.
- Avoid using dates, names and ages. It doesn't matter to them.
- Be prepared. Practice until it feels and sounds natural.
- Read it aloud and edit it to make it conversational.
- Let a friend read it and make suggestions.
- Speak casually and informally, in a matter-of-fact tone.
- Don't dramatize or embellish your story.
- Don't share mystical experiences. Share on THEIR level, not yours.
- Don't talk down to people. Don't sound "preachy."
- Use "I," "me," and "my," not "you." It's about you, not them.
- Use humor – it reduces tension and relaxes people. Smile!
- Choose a central theme from the list of suggestions.

The Bible doesn't tell us to share our **FAITH**, but to share our **HOPE**. Faith is what you believe, hope is the **benefit** of what you believe! **Share the HOPE!**

POSSIBLE TESTIMONY THEMES

HOW TRUSTING JESUS HAS HELPED ME DEAL WITH MY ...

Worries / Anxiety
 Guilt / Shame
 Anger / Temper
 Emptiness / Lack of purpose
 Grief
 Stress / Burnout
 Low self-esteem
 Poor health
 Disappointment
 Insecurity
 Regrets
 Discontent / Frantic activity
 Fears
 Loneliness
 Lack of emotional support
 Addictions / Habits
 Self-centeredness
 Despair / Depression
 Cheap thrills
 Boredom with my life
 Fear of death
 Feeling something was missing
 Bitterness and resentment
 Pain of rejection
 Marriage problems
 Financial problems
 Business problems

HOW TRUSTING JESUS HAS GIVEN ME ...

Inner peace
 Forgiveness and a fresh start
 Patience and love
 Purpose and meaning in life
 Comfort and joy
 New energy and power for living
 Significance (I'm valuable to God!)
 Healing or strength to go on
 Trust in God's good plans
 Confidence and sense of security
 A second chance at life
 Contentment and peace
 Faith to face my fears
 Assurance God's always with me
 A church family that supports me
 Freedom and power to change
 Love for other people
 Hope
 Real and lasting happiness
 Adventure with God
 Assurance of heaven
 A sense of fulfillment
 The ability to be free from my past
 God's unconditional love
 Positive changes in my marriage
 Positive changes in my finances
 Positive changes in my business

Remember that you have more than one testimony!

A personal testimony is **STILL** the most persuasive form of communication.