

## Preparing to Share My Personal Story of Faith in Jesus

### 1. Your Compelling Personal Story of Faith

#### A. Your undeniable experience

People can debate philosophy, history, personal opinions, etc. but seldom will people outright deny a person's personal experience. The story of what God has done in your life is important and powerful. Other people will relate to your life experiences as you tell them how God transformed your life and gave you peace and purpose. God will use it to touch people's lives and give them hope. The Holy Spirit will use your story to convict people of their sin and need for God's love. If God can do it for you, He can do it for them. That's why God tells us in 1 Peter 3:15, ***"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."*** (NIV).

#### B. Preparing your personal story of faith

There are some important things to know in developing your personal story of faith. In order for it to communicate most effectively consider the following:

- 1) **Keep it short and simple.** Your story should be no longer than three (3) minutes in length. A long story will be one that includes thoughts and ideas that will distract from the main message. You will lose people's attention. If it is longer than three (3) minutes, the essence of the message of God's grace and Jesus will get buried in verbiage about secondary matters. Keep it short and focused.
- 2) **Do not use churchy language.** The majority of our city, nation, and world is lost and unchurched. They may have a form of religion but religious words have different meanings that often confuse and mislead. Make sure you avoid using religious words you understand but they don't. These words do not communicate. Avoid using them.
- 3) **Tell a little about yourself and your family.** People are interested and like to hear a few details about you and your family. It will help them get an idea of who you are and connect with you. Tell them who you are, where you're from, about your family. Spend no more than one (1) minute on this part of your story.

- 4) **Tell them how you came to seek and find God.** Include what you thought and how you felt when you were seeking. Did you lack purpose and direction in your life? Did you wonder why you were here? Were you hurt, angry, bitter, disappointed, without hope, afraid, troubled, questioning, in bondage? Every lost person you talk to will have some similar feelings in their life. Feelings really help you connect with people at the heart level. Feelings also cross all cultural and language barriers. Be sure to include how you felt when you were on your spiritual journey toward faith in Jesus Christ.
- 5) **Focus on Jesus Christ and what He did and is doing for you.** It is Jesus who saves us, forgives our sin, sets us free from the power and penalty of sin and death, and transforms our lives. Make sure the focal point of your story of faith is Jesus, what He did and what He is doing in your life.
- 6) **Include scripture verse in your story of faith.** God blesses His Word, whether it is sung, written, or spoken. When you quote a verse that God uses to change lives, the Holy Spirit of God uses the Word of God and brings conviction. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that ***“the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*** (ESV).
- 7) **End your story with your future hope.** Our ultimate hope is that Jesus Christ has given us eternal life in heaven with him. Jesus said, ***“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”*** John 10:28 ESV. WOW! That is the blessed hope and we are assured of it and are looking forward to it. It is not a “hope” that we surely hope that it happens. It is a settled fact, accomplished by God and so it gives us hope because it is assured by Him. People need to know of your confident hope. It will give them a reason to want that hope too. (See also 1 Peter 1:1-5).
- 8) **Ask a transitional question that may lead to sharing the gospel.**  
  
“May I share with you what God says in the Bible about how you can know for certain that you have salvation and eternal life?”  
  
(We will share more about using this question later).

**C. An outline for your story of faith**

Using an outline to develop your personal story of faith in Jesus will help you organize your thoughts, include all important points, and provide a logical progression that will be easily understood and followed by the person(s) with whom you are sharing. Please note the following effective outline.

**Personal Story of Faith - Outline**

- 1) Introduce yourself and tell something about yourself.**
- 2) Share what your life was like before you came to receive Jesus Christ.**
- 3) Share how you came to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**
- 4) Share what your life is like now that you know Jesus.**
- 5) Ask the transitional question.**

**D. An Example - One Person's Story of Faith**

- 1) Hi! My name is Gary Wilson. I live Madison, MS with my wife Carol and by two children. I work at Nissan in the quality assurance department.
- 2) I grew up in Henrietta, Oklahoma in eastern Oklahoma. In my family I had a father, mother, and two brothers. We had a very close and loving family. But, we never went to church. We seldom talked about God and never prayed. God was not a part of our lives. Because of that I grew up asking questions for which I had no answers. As I grew older I really began to think about my purpose in life, why I was here and what life was all about.
- 3) When I became a young man I had no solid direction in life. I had no life purpose. I was empty inside. When I thought about my future I felt only uncertainty, fear, and anxiety. And, when I thought about life after death I felt worry and despair. I had no hope. A friend of mine knew how I felt

and he shared a verse from the Bible with me. It was John 3:16 which says, ***“For God so loved the world (me) that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*** When I heard that verse I knew why my life was empty and without purpose and hope. I was missing God’s love and purpose. That day I prayed and confessed my sin to God. I believed that Jesus died for me and rose from the dead. I asked Him to forgive my sin and come into my life as Lord and Savior.

- 4) Since that day my life has changed completely. Now I have peace, hope, and purpose. I trusted God and He has directed my life and meets all my needs day by day. I still have problems sometimes, but the Lord Jesus is there to help and comfort me through all my circumstances. And, I know for certain that when my life here ends, I will spend eternity in Heaven with God.
- 5) Hey, may I share with you what God says in the Bible about how you can know for certain that you can have salvation and eternal life?”

**E. A Personal Story of Faith Worksheet – Next Page**

## **A Personal Story of Faith Worksheet**

Please use this worksheet outline to develop your personal story draft for submission to the CHBC Mission Office via email only to: [bhaller@colonialheights.org](mailto:bhaller@colonialheights.org)

**1) Introduce yourself and tell something about yourself and your family.**

**2) Share what your life was like before you came to receive Jesus Christ.**

**3) Share how you came to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

**4) Share what your life is like now that you know Jesus.**

**5) Ask the transitional question.**

“May I share with you what God says in the Bible about how you can know for certain that you can have salvation and eternal life?”