

How Do I Write and Share My Jesus Story?

*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...*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

A carefully prepared testimony, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be a compelling tool used on the spur of the moment or to answer deep faith questions. Any subject matter can be presented more effectively by carefully preparing your thoughts.

Let's look at how to put your story together, piece by piece. There are five basic parts to telling your story: the opening, your life before Jesus, how you met Jesus, your life after Jesus and the closing.

1. **The Opening.** Identify a theme you can use to frame your story. What did your life revolve around (e.g., relationships, partying, popularity, flawed identity, money) that God used to help call you to Him? Briefly illustrate how that influenced your life.
2. **Your Life Before Jesus.** Paint a picture of what your life was like before you met Jesus. Don't dwell on or brag about past sins or struggles. Share only the details that relate to your theme — just enough to show your need for Christ.
3. **How You Met Jesus.** Give the details about why and how you became a Christian. Communicate in such a way that the person you are talking with, and anyone who overhears you, can understand how they can become a Christian too. Even if your listeners are not ready for that, God could use your story and explanation of the gospel to draw them to Himself in the future.
4. **Your Life After Meeting Jesus.** Share some of the changes that Jesus has made in your life as they relate to your theme. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude, or perspective, not just the changes in behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as disciples. Life is far from perfect, but what's different about your life now? How is Jesus continuing to change you? What unexpected challenges did you face?
5. **The Closing.** End with a statement that summarizes your story and connects everything back to your theme. You may even want to close with a Bible verse that relates to your experience.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Pray before you write out and share your story.
- Write the way you speak.
- When sharing, consider the audience. How can you best relate to them?
- Don't be overly negative or positive. Be honest.
- Passion is contagious. Share your story with excitement and enthusiasm.
- Don't criticize or name any church, denomination, organization, etc.
- Think about your listeners. Avoid overly religious terms.
- Keep it short. Aim to tell your story in three to five minutes.
- Practice telling your story until it becomes natural.



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