

Tips for telling your testimony

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- 1) Remember that your testimony is unique! Your personal experience of God's salvation and grace, and the way He has begun to change your life is different from anyone else's. Though He is the same God, the way He has led you to Himself is special to you.
"As for me, being on the way, the Lord led me" (Genesis 24.27)
- 2) Know that your testimony is powerful. Revelations 12:11 states that "they [God's people] overcame him [the enemy] by the blood of the Lamb and by the *word of their testimony*". Therefore, your personal testimony has the power to overcome those who oppose God because it is evidence of God's work in your life which cannot be disputed.
- 3) Learn from Paul – read Acts 22 and 26.
 - Paul adapted his testimony to his audience, emphasising different points to different people in order that he might "by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).
 - He describes what his life was like *before* he met Jesus, and then he describes in detail *how* he met Jesus. He closes his testimony by describing what has happened in his life *since* meeting Jesus.
- 4) Be honest in your testimony and be yourself. You don't need to try to make your testimony exciting and you don't need to make it sound like other people's testimonies. You may think that your testimony is boring because you gradually became a Christian or you grew up in a Christian home and never spent any time in prison (!)...but the story of your walk with God is always exciting because it glorifies God.
- 5) Avoid Christian jargon and terminology that non-Christians won't understand.
- 6) Focus on what God has done for you through Christ - not on what you have done, and try not to emphasis your past too much. Sometimes people can spend too much time talking about all the sins they have committed instead of praising God for saving them from those sins.
- 7) Talk about how God is leading you now and what you are learning in the present. Don't be afraid to mention difficulties you have as a Christian and the way that God is helping you. As you grow as a Christian your testimony will change as you discover new things about God and remember different parts of your story.

Preparing for sharing your testimony:

- Write down 3 phrases that describe what you were like before you became a Christian and the way that you felt. ¹
- Write down the details of your conversion, such as **when** (a specific date or period of time), **where** (your situation), **how** (how did you hear about God and how did you respond) and **how you began to change** (in thinking, in relationships and in your behaviour).

¹ Jennings, Andrew. 'Your Testimony.'
Gone Fishing. Young Life re:source.

See <http://christianity.about.com/od/testimonies/a/howtotestimony.htm> for more information