



JOURNALING WITH JESUS  
*Love Triumphs!*

## YOUR STORY MATTERS!

Note: Depending on the size group, this activity takes a minimum of 2 hours.

Our lives are made up of many profound moments where God broke through and did the amazing and the impossible. Our stories are meant to be shared to encourage, bring hope, strengthen faith, inspire, and guide others to the love of Christ.

To develop your testimony, we will:

- ♥ Clarify the importance of your testimony.
- ♥ Organize your story.
- ♥ Prepare to communicate your story impactfully.
- ♥ Share your story with confidence.

### Clarify the Importance of Your Testimony

What is the purpose of sharing a testimony?

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Why are our stories important to others?

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Why is it important to me to share my story?

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Why is it important to God to share my story?

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## Organize Your Story

Testimonies need to be interesting, concise, and relatable. We do that by eliminating the back story and jumping into the challenge, conflict, or hardship; painting a picture of how this impacted us; sharing the dilemma we face; and how we felt in response to the crisis.

### DESCRIBE THE DILEMMA

Choose one story. Concisely describe the circumstance/challenge. "My dad was in the hospital..."

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How was the challenge impacting you? How did you feel in response to it? "I was afraid and worried we would never see him again. I held his feet and prayed."

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### WHAT DID GOD DO?

How did God breakthrough "After I prayed, Dad shared with me that he was sinking into darkness. In response to my prayer, He saw an angel grab his hand, cut the enemy away with a sword, and bring him to safety."

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### HOW DID THIS IMPACT YOU?

What was the benefit? Who benefited? How did they benefit? "Dad did not believe He deserved God saving Him. Dad now believed God was real and loved him. And I don't think I realized how powerful prayer really was until that day."

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### ENCOURAGE SOMEONE GOING FORWARD?

What do you encourage your listeners to do? How will it benefit them? "Our prayers are more powerful than we know. Pray, believe, and watch God do the rest."

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## **Prepare to Communicate Your Story Impactfully**

- ♥ Be authentic
- ♥ Use emotions
- ♥ Speak clearly

## **Share Your Testimony With Confidence!**

- ♥ Break into groups of 2 to 3 and share your 2 to 3 minute testimony.
- ♥ Each person keeps time with their phone.
- ♥ At 2 minutes, give the person sharing a signal they have one minute left.

## **Thank & Affirm**

After each person has shared their testimony, simply thank the person for sharing and give them a positive response about how their testimony impacted you personally.

- ♥ Share at least one affirming response
- ♥ Refrain from sharing how you can relate to their story, because this leads to you telling your story, which tends to diminish their story.

Examples:

- ♥ “Thank you for sharing your story with me. When you shared how God spoke to you in that critical moment, I got chills. Your story has helped me believe Jesus for greater things.”
- ♥ “Thank you for sharing your story. Your courage was inspiring, and God’s faithfulness was so comforting to me.”

Return to Large Group to Share!

But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope and confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15 AMP