

Telling Your Stories

“Christians don’t have just one testimony; we have many. Our testimonies are stories of God’s power and presence in our lives. Every new day brings fresh stories of God’s goodness and grace.”

—Kevin Harney: *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*

You have a story to tell!

“Every Christian has a personal story to tell.... God has called you to be a very specific, very special person, and your story, your life, is a testimony to God’s goodness, His Grace, His forgiveness.

So share who you are with people. Let them know you have struggles, but that God has made a difference.”

—Rebecca M. Pippert: *Out of the Saltshaker*

Not a testimony, but testimonies

Testimonies communicate that God is one who can...

- Answer prayer
- Heal broken bodies
- Give us self-control in the areas we lack
- Restored shattered hearts
- Put together fragmented marriages
- Set us free from fear and worry and give inner peace
- Release people from addictions
- Help in our depression and anxiety
- Wash away sin and remove the cloud of guilt
- Free us from the fear of death
- Comfort the lonely and hurting,
- Give new purpose and direction in life

Tips For When Sharing Your Stories

1. Ask for permission and don’t be pushy
 - If you sense an open door, ask, “Would you mind if I told you a little about a way God has changed my life?”
 - “I’d like to tell you how I first came to have a relationship with Jesus. Would that be alright with you?”

2. Use ordinary language

3. Start briefly and share more as it becomes appropriate

- A short testimony is almost always better than a long one
- Share one experience: “Could I share little more?”

4. Highlight God’s Presence and Power

- We have a real and authentic relationship with Jesus. Let it show in your story.

5. Clearly present the before and after pictures

6. Share the source of life transformation

- Jesus is the source of the change
 - Not going to church, hanging around new people, or getting religious, etc.

7. Let **JOY** shine through

- A flow of joy that is contagious
- The Joy of the Lord should be evident in our lives

8. Communicate with Humility

- A story is not a bludgeon to pound people into submission
 - It is a witness to what God is doing in our lives
 - Not a speech about how I am right, and you are wrong.
 - Rather, God is moving in our lives, and we are grateful

9. Remember you have many testimonies

- What is relevant to them? Similar experiences?
- The Holy Spirit has power to work through your story!
 - We don’t change lives or have to have all the answers
 - We can speak about what God is doing in our lives
 - Your story may be just what someone needs to hear

Try the 100 Words Exercise

- Let an area where you have experienced growth / transformation shape your story
- Try to capture God’s part in the process.
 - Goal is not to memorize a speech, but to learn to be brief when sharing.