

Testimony Guide

Start with a Simple 3-Point Outline (BEFORE, HOW, NOW)

A three-point approach is very effective in communicating your personal testimony. The outline focuses on **before** you trusted Christ, **how** you surrendered to him, and the difference **since** you've been walking with him.

- **Before:**

Simply tell what your life was like before you surrendered to Christ. What were you searching for before coming to know Christ? What was the key problem, emotion, situation or attitude you were dealing with? What motivated you? What were your actions? How did you try to satisfy your inner needs? What things did you value? (Examples of inner needs are loneliness, fear of death, insecurity. Possible ways to fill those needs include work, money, drugs, relationships, sports, sex.)

- **How:**

How were you converted? Simply tell the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your searching. Take time to identify the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Christ. Where were you? What was happening at the time? What people or problems influenced your decision?

- **Since:**

How has your life in Christ made a difference? How is Jesus greater than all those things you valued before? How has his forgiveness impacted you? How have your thoughts, attitudes and emotions changed? Share how Christ is meeting your needs and what a relationship with him means to you now.

Important Tips to Remember

- **Stick to the point.** Your conversion and new life in Christ should be the main points. Not all the bad things you did before!
- **Be specific.** Include events, genuine feelings and personal insights that clarify your main point. This makes your testimony tangible - something others can relate to.
- **Be current.** Tell what is happening in your life with God now, today. Talk about how Jesus is working in your life.
- **Be honest.** Don't exaggerate or dramatize your life for effect. The simple truth of what God has done in your life is all the [Holy Spirit](#) needs to convict others of their sin and convince them of his love and grace.

Things to Avoid

At all possible, stay away from "Christianese" phrases. These "foreign" or "churchy" words can alienate listeners and readers and keep them from identifying with your life.

Just be clear about the message of the Gospel... We don't want to shy away from Biblical language, but we sometimes need to define the words!

<p>When talking about being "born again" think about phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• spiritual birth• spiritual renewal• to come alive spiritually• given a new life	<p>When talking about the "Gospel" explain that it means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GOOD NEWS• God's message to man• the good news about Christ's purpose on earth
<p>When talking about being "saved" consider phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• rescued• redeemed• delivered from despair• found hope for life• forgiven• experienced grace	<p>Don't avoid using the word "sin", but do clarify it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• rejecting God• missing the mark• falling away from the right path• a crime against God's law• disobedience to God• Choosing your way instead of God's
<p>When talking about being "lost" consider phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• broken God's laws• deserved God's judgement• heading in the wrong direction• separated from God• had no hope	<p>Define words like "repent"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• admit a wrong• change one's mind, heart or attitude• make a decision to turn away• turn around• a 180 degree turn from what you were doing• turning FROM sin and TO God

At our April breakfast, bring your written testimony!! We'll share them with one another, begin to video some of your stories, and we will also talk about uploading them to the whativaluemost.com website!

Skeptics may debate the validity of Scripture or argue the existence of God, but no one can deny your personal experiences with Him. When you tell your story of how God has worked a miracle in your life, or how he has blessed you, transformed you, lifted and encouraged you, perhaps even broken and healed you, no one can argue or debate it. You go beyond the realm of **knowledge** into the realm of **relationship** with God!

(BEFORE) My life before Christ

(HOW) How I met Jesus Christ

(NOW) My Life Since Jesus became Lord -
