

# HOW TO WRITE YOUR STORY OF FAITH

Your story of how you came to faith in Jesus should include three parts:

1. Your life before you said Yes to Jesus (shortest part)
2. HOW YOU SAID YES TO JESUS (most detailed part)
3. Your life since you've said Yes to Jesus (how has Jesus changed you)

A few tips that may help you write our your story...

- **KEEP IT BRIEF.** Like 90 seconds brief. Like 250 words in complete sentences, not outline form. For real. Share just enough that invites the other person to ask you more questions. That's different than sharing so much that the other person regrets giving you an opportunity.
- **MAKE JESUS THE HERO OF YOUR STORY.** It was Jesus who saved you! Celebrate Him. Let others know that He is the reason you live with joy and purpose now. Resist talking more about what you've done or how great your church or small group is. Jesus is the Forgiver and Leader. Make you story about Him.
- **RESIST FLAUNTING YOUR LIFE BEFORE CHRIST.** Some "testimonies" almost seem to glorify their lives before they met Jesus, sharing how bad they were or how much "fun" they had. Every person is guilty of the same sin: living life under their own leadership without God. Every person needs the same salvation in Christ.
- **RESIST MINIMIZING YOUR LIFE BEFORE CHRIST.** Some people come to faith at a young age. They assume that since they've never been passed out in a gutter with a needle in their arm after throwing a bag full of puppies into the river, they don't have a story. Every person is guilty of the same sin: living life under their own leadership without God. Every person needs the same salvation in Christ.
- **THINK ABOUT DIFFERENT THEMES.** No one's story is just one thing. What are different things you know God has rescued you from: depression, addiction, people-pleasing, manipulation, greed? Write your story from one of those themes. You might share how you battled depression before meeting Jesus. Then share that Jesus met you in a dark time of your life. Then you might share how Jesus is guiding you through depression through truth and the Holy Spirit.
  - Then, write your story again from another theme. Why? You will meet people who share a tension or challenge they're facing. If you have your story ready from a couple of different angles, you may be able to engage easier. A friend might share how they are worried about a financial situation in their life. If that was something God has dealt with you on, you could share your story from that theme.

- **INCLUDE A BIBLE VERSE...KINDA.** Is there a verse that God used to help you clearly see your need for Jesus? Include that verse in your story. Don't feel pressured that you have to share the reference. You can, but you don't have to. The Bible is true even if it doesn't come with an address.
- **BE CLEAR ABOUT HOW YOU CAME TO FAITH.** Resist saying, "Then I got saved." Okay... how? Where were you? How did you know you needed to be saved? Did you pray a prayer? Did you make a decision in your mind? What happened right after? How did you know that Jesus forgave you and gave you His Holy Spirit? The more specific you can be, you are giving your friend a model of how God might lead them to say Yes to Jesus.
- **DON'T PRESSURE.** Some people feel that every time they share their story of faith, they must ask the person they're talking to if they want to come to faith, too. Sometimes, that's appropriate. Sometimes, it's not. Rely on the Holy Spirit in real time. It's okay to share your story and leave it at that. You have just given that person some new data and they may need time to think about it. The Holy Spirit may use it later in their lives. Remember, it's God who saves people. He uses Christians to be His messengers.