

Preparing for Your Baptism Testimony Video

The aim of giving a personal testimony is to behold the working of God's grace in your own life, so that the cross of Christ may be proclaimed and the faith of your listeners may be built up. Hearing the testimony of others is both encouraging and challenging.

While our faith as believers is very personal, that does not mean that it is private. God's story of redemption and work of his Son are meant to be publicly proclaimed and demonstrated in the stories of the transformation of his people. A private life of faith is often evidence of one being debilitated by the fear of man rather than made free by the fear of God. We want to remove that stumbling block by challenging those who proclaim "Jesus is Lord" to demonstrate what that means with their lives.

Using the means of video will allow you to tell the story of gospel change in your life in a way that is clear, accessible and sharable. To be baptized at Veritas, we'll ask that you participate and in a short interview (very easy, not stressful!) as we record your story. This will be played at the gathering before your baptism and then posted online on our website for you to share.

Sharing your testimony through video is required for those getting baptized at Veritas. We will work with you to make this process as quick, easy, and painless as possible for you. We have found that this is the best way for us to communicate your story to the people of Veritas when you get baptized. We will also be posting this video online. If you have any issues with your testimony appearing online, please discuss your concerns with us.

What the interview will be like:

You will be coached through these 3 questions. We're able to edit, so you don't need to stress too much about having full, eloquent paragraphs memorized, but have written out a thought-through response. Your answers don't have to be elaborate or long. What we're looking for is short, honest, personable, authentic answers—as if you were telling a friend how Jesus has changed your life. It's best if you can be specific in terms of the change that Christ has brought to your life (before/after), but we also know that some struggles are very personal, so share what you are comfortable with. So, relax and be encouraged that the Gospel will be declared through your story!

With those things in mind, think about your testimony through this framework:

- **Identity Before** - Think about the things/people that you found your identity and worth from before you were in Christ. How did those things fail you and ultimately hurt you? How did you feel after those things failed you and hurt you?
- **Transformation** - Then think about your transformation. This is your opportunity to talk about Jesus and his work; about how he reconciled you to God and others. How is Jesus better than those things that you previously found your identity and worth in?

- **Identity Now** - How is your life different now that Jesus has saved you? How is your struggle with sin different now that you're in Christ? How do you feel about Jesus as he continually shows himself faithful?

*When thinking through this framework, don't spend much time talking about events, people, or ministries. Think more about how Jesus has transformed your heart and saved you from your sin; think more about his story than your story. This will enable you to better encourage others in your testimony.

Here are the Questions You'll Be Asked During the Interview

1. What did you find your identity in before Jesus saved you?

- Your felt need for something. There was always something missing in life but you didn't know what it was. OR You did know what was missing and you were ignoring it, filling it with other things.
- You may have tried to satisfy your need by filling it with things that only this world can offer. Marriage, money, work, sports, drugs, alcohol, sex, hobbies, or whatever has been your fix.

2. How did Jesus transform you?

- Share the Gospel clearly yet briefly. Including something like:
 - i. I have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.
 - ii. Christ has paid the price of sins through dying on the cross.
 - iii. I confessed my sins and asked for God's forgiveness in my life.
 - iv. Through repentance, I was reconciled to Christ, and now have new life in Him.

3. What is your identity now?

- How has Christ's death for you fulfilled those inner desires and needs? What difference has Christ made in your life?
- Don't be afraid to share that you still have struggles but how Christ has helped you through those struggles.
- Conclude by sharing that you now know that you have eternal life (according to 1 John 5:11-13) in Christ.

**Please write out your answers to these questions*

**Please allow 30 minutes in your schedule to shoot this video. About 10-15 minutes to go over the pre-interview with a staff member and 10-15 minutes for shooting the video.*

For Children

Many Children don't have a lot of details to speak of in regards to what life was like before the cross so we will usually begin with the second part of the outline. Please encourage your children to memorize a bible verse--perhaps a verse that they memorized with Veritas Kids.

A few things to remember while thinking through answering these questions:

- Keep it focused on Christ, the cross, and on God's initiative and grace—God focused as opposed to self-focused.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, so that the most important and helpful aspects of your Gospel story will be shared clearly. Believe that God will empower you through His Spirit to be a witness to His good grace (Acts 1:8).
- We are trying to keep these video interviews concise. We have a lot of testimonies to get through on Sunday and we want to encourage people the best we can with your testimony. That being said, we only want to spend thirty seconds on each one of the 3 questions we'll ask during the interview.

What happens at the actual baptism:

What to wear and bring:

- Appropriate clothes: Darker colored t-shirts and shorts. Women: No bikinis or swimsuits.
- Sandals or water shoes are optional.
- Bring your testimony.

When to be there and where to go:

- *Show up 30 minutes before the church service starts at the connect table, and don't be late!*