

## YOUR STORY

### GREAT PATTERNS FOR SHARING

1. **THEIR STORY**- Start by asking them to share. “Tell me about your spiritual journey.” After they share they will feel obligated to listen to you. It also helps you know how to frame your story and God’s story.
2. **MY STORY**- Here are three common outlines for sharing your story:
  - a. **New Believer** – There may not be dramatic evidence of a transformation after Christ yet, so the new believer can focus on sharing *why they chose to follow Jesus*.
  - b. **Established Believer** –A great pattern for adults who accept Christ is to share *their life before Christ, how they came to Christ, and their life after Christ*.
  - c. **Believer** – For someone who has been a believer a long time or trusted Christ as a child, they might not have much to say about their life before Christ. A great pattern for them to use is to share *what my life is like now compared to what it would be like without Christ*. This works for every believer. Example:

*These last couple years I've been going through a lot... but through it all I've had a peace, a joy, and a hope. And the only explanation is my relationship with God... Do you want to know how you can have that kind of relationship?*

3. **GOD'S STORY**- Share God’s story of redemption available through his Son.

### SHARING YOUR FAITH

This can be a before-and-after format if your story features a dramatic turn-around, or simply an account of what difference it makes in your life to be a child of God. The latter format is appropriate for anyone.

There are many ways to bring up spiritual matters in everyday conversation. Some very direct ways include asking questions such as, “Do you ever think about spiritual things?” or “What is the most important thing in the world to you?” or “Can I share with you the most important discovery of my life?” Once you have turned the conversation to spiritual things you can usually find a way to naturally share an account of how you came to follow the Lord.

Many people in the Bible shared their personal testimonies. Some examples are the Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5:18-20), the Samaritan woman (John 4:28-30, 39), Peter and John (Acts 4:18-21) and Paul (Acts 9:1-22; 22:3-16; 26:9-18). You should read these passages to get some ideas about how to share your faith in this way.

Here is a sample testimony:

*Hi my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I'm from \_\_\_\_\_. I can still remember the pain in my heart when my wife and I learned that our baby girl due to be born in three weeks had died. It's times like this when a person finds out if their faith has been placed in something real. I was born and raised by parents who loved Jesus and at a very young age I placed my life in His hands. As I grew up I never questioned my faith but I was often in situations when I found that Jesus did exactly what He promised. Rather than*

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*destroying my faith in Jesus the death of my daughter showed me the depth of God's compassion and comfort. What I had learned in my Bible set me free from depression, despair and bitterness. I knew that I could trust God with everything.*

*Throughout my life I have been blessed to help other people learn about Jesus. When someone decides to turn from believing in themselves and doing what they believe to be right to following Jesus, doing what He has commanded and trusting Jesus for their whole life I've seen the Kingdom of God come. I've seen families that were filled with anger transformed by Jesus to families filled with love. I've seen people who wanted to kill themselves transformed by Jesus into people who are filled with concern for others. I've seen people who only cared about getting rich for themselves changed by Jesus into people who find the greatest joy in loving others. Witnessing God heal people's lives and fill them with joy and purpose is my greatest joy joys.*

*God continues be at work in my life. I am continua(y amazed at God's love, faithfulness, wisdom, power and care for me. I wonder if after hearing some of my story if you have any questions about God and your life.*