

Sharing Your Story

**When you tell your story, it's God who is responsible
for changing people's hearts.
You are simply called to be ready
and to share what God has done in your life.**

No matter how simple or complicated it is, your story (or "testimony") is meant to be told and can help introduce people to Jesus (John 4:29,39).

If you've ever felt nervous or unsure about sharing your story, here are some tips that can help you take that step of faith.

1. You've Got the Power

God's Spirit lives inside you from the moment you first trust Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit gives you the power to be His witness (Acts 1:8). You don't need to muster up courage or even be an amazing speaker (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). Just be honest about who Christ is and what He's done in your life.

2. Everyone's on a Spiritual Journey

God is already at work in the lives of others. You can't tell whether someone is moving toward or away from Him based simply on outward appearances (Acts 17:26-27). Don't let assumptions keep you from asking others about their spiritual journeys and sharing your story of how God has met you.

3. God Desires to Use YOU

Throughout the Bible, we see God moving in people's lives. It is exciting! And even more, He invites you to be part of other people's spiritual journeys to faith (2 Corinthians 5:20). Your story might help connect someone to Jesus.

4. Be Prepared

The Bible says to always be ready to give a reason for the hope you have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). One great way to be prepared is to write out your spiritual story (your testimony) ahead of time.

5. Practice, Practice, Practice

After you've [written out your story](#), practice it out loud a few times. Try recording yourself on your phone. Time it, aiming for about three minutes. Make sure what you've said is clear.

6. Pray

Ask God to bring someone to mind — a friend, a family member or an acquaintance — who doesn't have a relationship with God yet. Then pray for God to draw that person to Himself.

Ask God to help you see and take the opportunities He provides to share your story. He might give you that chance in the midst of everyday conversations, or you could set up a time to talk.

7. Draw near to Listen

We have opportunity to show we care by listening and taking interest in the other person's story.

Asking questions is one great way to do this. Try these:

- What is your religious background?
- What have you tried on your spiritual journey since then?
- Where are you now on your spiritual journey?
- Where do you want to be on your spiritual journey?

8. Ask Permission

Many times after you've listened to someone share their story, they will ask to hear yours. But if not, ask permission before you begin. You might say, "Can I tell you a little bit about my spiritual experience?"

9. Keep your story interactive (don't dump it on people)

Sharing your story is not meant to be a one-way conversation.

10. Be like an accordion

Learn how to share your story in ways that fit the situation. Accordion is an instrument that expands and contracts to meet the needs of the moment.

11. As you have opportunity share the gospel through your story

Telling our story isn't just about us. There are certain facts about the Gospel—such as who Jesus is and what He did on the cross—that are true regardless of my personal story. It's essential to get those facts across. But the story is important as well. People

can argue with the facts. They really can't argue with your experience. That's very powerful.

12. Leave the Results to God

Share your story in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results to God. No matter how someone responds, continue to pray for them. You never know how the Lord will move in someone's life down the road.

13. Share truth, but don't be concerned if you can't get into the whole thing yet.

Often you only have time to share part of your story. Then maybe at another time, you come back and share another part. People don't want to hear a lecture. They want conversation. We have to learn to clearly articulate parts of our story. If the opportunity is there to share more, that's great, but most of the time what we share is only a partial disclosure of the truth. That's just the way people converse. You may be one link in the chain, helping them come one step closer to knowing Jesus. God is so able to coordinate the next person, next link in the chain coming into their lives.

14. Remember sharing your story isn't about accomplishing a task; it's about loving the person you are talking to — someone God loves (Ephesians 2:4-5) and wants to be in a relationship with.

Who has God brought to mind for you to share your story with?

SOURCES: <https://www.navigators.org/telling-his-story-by-telling-your-story/>
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/evangelism-principles/10-tips-for-sharing-your-testimony-with-others.html>