

A general framework for creating and sharing your Testimony

1. What your life was like before you were saved.

This is not the place to brag about your sin (if you sinned widely or publicly) or to minimize your sin (if you came to Christ at a young age and did not publicly rebel much); but instead, this is a place to talk about how you were apart from Christ. No one is born a Christian. By God's Grace some come to know Him early, but all of us were apart from Christ. Talk about this season of your life. Talk about how you used to think about God or about sin or about Christianity. It is often in this sharing that the person or people with whom you are sharing will be able to relate to you and understand how they too are separated from God.

2. How you came to repent of your sins and believe in the Gospel

Again, some people may have dramatic circumstances around their conversion while others may have a seemingly "less dramatic" conversions....the point is that there is a time you turned from your sin and trusted in Christ. Talk to them about Christ's death in your place and His resurrection. Share with them how you turned from your sin and how you trusted fully in Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

3. What your life has been like since knowing Christ

This is not a time to highlight how great you are, but instead it is a time to show them how great Christ is and how He has transformed your life. It is also an excellent time to talk with them about your enduring need for the Gospel, the fact that you still need it to this day. Take the opportunity to dispel the false ideas that Christianity is only for good people. - NO! - tell them how Christ is still your savior, and how you still need His abundant mercy to cover your proneness to sin.

4. How the person that you are sharing your testimony with can experience the same in their life

As with any Gospel presentation, there must be a call to respond to Christ. It is important when you've shared your testimony and you have shared scriptures that explain the Gospel, that you explain that you are not asking them to be like you but rather you are asking them to invite Jesus into their heart as their Lord and Savior. Both your testimony and your call for them to repent should point directly to Christ.

It is important that you become familiar with scriptures that explain the Gospel. There are many choices. The follow is a simple way offered but the Billy Graham organization at <https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>.

4 Simple Steps

To share the Gospel, you can follow these 4 simple steps:

1. Tell them about God's plan—peace and life. God loves you and wants you to experience the peace and life He offers. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). He has a plan for you.

2. Share our problem—separation from God. Being at peace with God is not automatic. By nature, we are all separated from Him. The Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). God is holy, but we are human and don’t measure up to His perfect standard. We are sinful, and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).
3. Talk about God’s remedy—the cross. God’s love bridges the gap of separation between you and Him. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave, He paid the penalty for your sins. The Bible says, “‘He Himself bore our sins’ in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by His wounds you have been healed’” (1 Peter 2:24).
4. Our response—receive Christ. You cross the bridge into God’s family when you accept Christ’s free gift of salvation. The Bible says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

To receive Christ, a person needs to do 4 things:

- Admit you’re a sinner.
- Ask forgiveness and be willing to turn away from your sins.
- Believe that Christ died for you on the cross.
- Receive Christ into your heart and life.

Romans 10:13 says, “Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Here’s a prayer you can pray to receive Christ:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name, amen.”

An Evangelism Class is available at SABC and will probably be offered next fall post Pandemic.