

So tell me your story!

Oprah Winfrey once famously said: “The great thing about relating to anybody is that they all have a story to tell that is as exciting as your own story”. People love stories. We also love to tell stories. 1 Peter 3:16 says that we should “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” Are you prepared? Your story is powerful. Can I recommend you to set aside 30 mins or so this coming week and write out your story? Instead of fumbling on the spot when you have a chance to share about Jesus, 30 minutes is all it should take to write out your testimony and be prepared.

Tips for preparing a personal testimony that honours Christ and challenges seekers¹:

- It is personal, not preachy – you are opening your heart to reveal how God has dealt with you. Tell your story, not just what you think they might want to hear.
- It is short – for occasions, ‘a long story’ would not be appropriate. With thought and refinement, about four minutes should be enough to cover the essential facts. Depending on your speaking pace this should represent approximately 750 – 1000 spoken words.
- It keeps Christ central – it is Christ who has done the work in our lives to enable us to change. He made the sacrifice. We are becoming like Him. Without Him we can do nothing. He deserves the attention and glory. He is the One others need to see (John 4:28-30; 1 Corinthians 2:2). Have a look at the Apostle Paul’s in Acts 26:4–23.
- It uses the Word of God – well-chosen verses that show how God has worked in your life help give a sharper cutting edge to your testimony. However, do not overload a seeker with too many verses as this can cause confusion.
- It is honest – embellishments to and exaggerations of the events of your life, past and present, should not be used. Your testimony should have integrity so just tell it as it happened – truthfully.

Once you have finished your testimony, share your testimony at church, or share it with a friend. We love stories – we’d love to hear yours too!

¹ Adapted from S. Abbott’s ‘Everyday Evangelism’