

What is a personal testimony?

- Telling the story of how you became a Christian and what Christ has done in your life since then. (Acts 22:1-21)
- Sharing your testimony is a way to create interest for others who are far from God (John 4:1-30; 39-41).
- Your personal testimony is a bridge that God can use to bring people to faith in Christ.

How do you develop a personal testimony?

- Begin with an attention getting sentence.
- Present Christ, not yourself.
- Stress your ongoing personal relationship with Christ.
- End with a response question.

The 15-Second Testimony

"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did." (John 4:29)

Read John 4:1–42. Like the woman at the well, we need to learn to share the story of what Jesus is done in our lives. Here's an outline you can use.

Introduction	Life before	Meeting Jesus	Life since	Question
"There was a time in my life when"		How you received forgiveness through his death and resurrection and made him the ruler of your life.	One or two statements describing your life following Christ.	Do you have a story like that?"

Take a few minutes to pray and think about your story and fill in the blanks below.

My Life Before Christ	2 1404.7	Λ.	
1	3. <u>WHAT?</u>	57	. 105.
2	INTRO <	1	\rightarrow ASK?
My Life After Christ	2.	2.	
1	THERE WAS A	THEN I RECEIVED	DO YOU HAVE
	ILME IN MY	JESUS' FORGIVENESS,	A STORY LIKE
2	LIFE	& FOLLOWED HIM	THAT?
Here's another example:			
called me to follow Him, so that in Him. Do you have a story like that Following the template above, wout loud.	t?"	·	
My 15-Second Testimony			

The Three-Minute Testimony

Given more time, you can share additional details about your experience of coming to Christ, including the time and place when you heard the gospel and the day you were baptized. Providing additional context to your salvation experience can allow you to connect with the person you're sharing with.

The timeline is still the same (Before Christ, Coming to Christ, and after Christ):

	What was my focus in life? Where did I find security, identity or happiness?
2.	How did those things begin to let me down?
w I	Came to Christ
1.	When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
2.	When and why did my perspective of Christ begin to change?
3.	What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him?
	Why did I finally decide to accept Christ (or give Him complete control of my life)?

My Life After Coming to Christ

1.	How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude and			
	perspective on life.			
	· 			
2.	What motivates me now? What do I live for?			
3.	Even though my life still isn't perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that			
	fact?			

Here's an example:

Even though I grew up in a pastor's home, I haven't always lived for Jesus. After spending every Sunday and Wednesday in church, I had developed some wrong attitudes about God and His desire for my life. I tried to obey God's rules because I wanted to go to heaven, but I kept messing up, and I was afraid that I would die and go to hell. At the same time, I was a pretty good person—at least better than some of the people around me—so I didn't understand why my life seemed to be falling apart. When my family moved during my freshman year of high school for my dad to work at a new church, I was overwhelmed and angry.

A few months after we moved, our youth group had a big weekend-long event called "Disciple Now," and my parents made me go. I still remember sitting in the back of the gym while the preacher spoke about Jesus and what it means to follow Him. I thought, "I've heard all of this before. This isn't for me." But on Saturday night, I heard

the preacher say something like "No one can earn their way to heaven." He could have been quoting the Scripture that says, "There is none that does what is right. No not one." Even though I had heard about Jesus all my life, I never realized that I was a sinner that He died to save. In that moment, the façade of being a good person came down. I knew that I wasn't a good person, and that I needed Jesus to save me. In that moment, all the anger that I had stored up toward God was replaced by a desire to follow Jesus. When the preacher invited anyone who wanted to repent of their sins and follow Christ to come to the front, I left my chair and went down. I was baptized the next day.

Since that weekend, I've continued to try to live for Jesus—sometimes better than others—but now I live for Him out of gratitude for what He's done for me. Each day, as I read the Bible, I'm overwhelmed that God would send His own Son to save me. This gratitude is also the reason I want to tell others about Jesus. I want them to experience His forgiveness and discover their purpose in Him, just like I did! Do you know Jesus like this?

Now it's your turn to share your testimony:			

_
 •
 -
_
 •
-
_
-

 	