



Your Story

This is a chance for you to write a bit of your spiritual autobiography!

There are several stories in the New Testament of how God used personal testimonies to reach others. Because of the Samaritan woman's testimony, "many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him" (John 4:39). Paul shared the story of his conversion when standing before King Agrippa (Acts 26). John testified about his relationship with Jesus when he wrote, "we proclaim to you what we have seen and heard" (1 John 1:3).

God can use our stories of faith to bring others to Him. It's our job to be prepared to share them! Use whichever questions below that you find helpful to tell your story.

Write your story out. When you read it, your story should be no more than 5 minutes in length (about 3 pages).

#1 If you grew up in a Christian home and/or became a Christian in your pre- or primary school years, write about your early thoughts and feelings about God, Jesus, Church, Christianity, and/or the Bible.

- What role did your family, church, friends and/or others play in your early spiritual development?
- Were there points in your childhood and/or adolescence that you struggled with your faith or had a spiritual or other crisis? How was this resolved?
- Was there a time in your life when you made a conscious decision to be a more intentional disciple of Jesus?

If you were not a Christian in early childhood, what were you like before making a decision to follow Jesus?

- At what points in your pre-Christian life did you have spiritual (not necessarily Christian) thoughts or experiences?
 - Were there some points of dissatisfaction or struggle in your life?
 - What did God use to begin opening your eyes to Him (e.g. people, books, events, circumstances)?
 - How did you grow in your understanding of Jesus?
 - What questions and/or barriers to belief did you encounter?
 - What/Who helped you answer/overcome these?
 - You may not be able to point to a crisis experience or a date of conversion, but describe the process you experienced of deciding to follow Jesus.
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#2 As you look back, what Bible character or story (from the Gospels, if possible) has the closest parallel or connection with a significant aspect of your own story (e.g. "I was like the lost coin [or the woman at the well or the leper . . .]"; "I felt a lot like Zacchaeus must have felt when . . .")?

#3 Since the time you became an intentional disciple of Jesus, how have your behaviors, ambitions, values, thoughts, relationships, etc. changed?

- Describe the process of transformation of these areas of your life. What people, events, resources, etc. have contributed to your growth as a follower of Jesus?

What are the benefits you have experienced of following Jesus?

What things continue to be areas of struggle for you?