

WITNESSING TOOLS

1. HOW TO GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

Aim of a Testimony

A testimony is giving people the story of how you came to Jesus. This is to help them make the same decision and to gain a greater understanding on how to come to Jesus Christ.

TESTIMONY OUTLINE

1. Ask God to help you through prayer and to guide you in your presentation.
2. Use the following outline for your written testimony:
 - a. Your life before Jesus became the Lord of your life.
 - b. How you came to Jesus. Include the specific events that are involved your decision. (e.g. The prayer you may have prayed) your explanation should be such that someone at the end of your testimony will know how they can come to Jesus as well.
 - c. What changes have happened to your life as a result of coming to Jesus (If you came to know Jesus as a young child then this may be the section that you want to emphasize that.)
3. Begin with an interesting story and finish with a thought provoking comment or question. Remember that the aim of the testimony is to make others think about making Jesus the Lord of their life.
4. Present your material in such a way that the people will be able to identify with it.
5. Emphasize that a Christian is someone who is forgiven by Jesus dying on the cross in there place.

THINGS NOT TO DO

1. Do not use Christian jargon e.g. Saved, born again, faith, sin, holiness etc. As many people may not know what you mean or have a wrong understanding of them.
2. Do not be vague. e.g. Then God told me... or Then I prayed the sinner's prayer...
3. Do not exaggerate what happened.
4. Do not mention Christians or Churches in a bad way as this then may become a stumbling block to them.
5. Do not be negative about other people or especially your audience.
6. Do not imply that now you are a Christian you are perfect or better than them. As a Christian you are only better than one person, who you were beforehand.
7. Don't belittle people in the audience by saying such things as "only a real fool wouldn't understand this."

SPEAKING HINTS

1. Pray before you speak.
2. Speak clearly.
3. Know what you are going to say and what you are hoping to achieve.
4. Do not put your hands across your mouth, mumble or turn away from the audience.
5. Speak loud enough that someone who is in the back corner can hear you clearly.
6. Write your testimony out in full, then pick you key points and practice it. (**Possibly in front of a mirror or with other Prayer Group members.**)

NOTE: Remember the 3 B's of sharing your Testimony.

1. **Be Bountiful**
2. **Be Bold**
3. **Most of all Be Brief.**

2. F.O.R.M. METHOD OF WITNESSING & EVANGULIZING

The greatest difficulty witnessing will be in knowing how to start. How can we create an interest in a person and guide the conversation toward spiritual things without offending them? We should learn to use the natural opportunities such as: objects, water, a cross, a book, a notice, etc. or even an occupation such as carpenter, teacher, gardener, etc. The F.O.R.M. method can help us in the area of getting started.

The acronym is F.O.R.M.:

F: is for family (Start with family discussion questions first)

O: is for occupation (Then go to occupational type discussion questions next)

R: is for recreation and (Go to recreational type discussion questions finely)

M: is for the message (Go to the Christian message)

With this method we can discern or determine as soon as possible, their spiritual position (“Cold believer; atheist; skeptic, etc). The simplest way to talk about the message is by asking questions such as:

1. Are you interested in spiritual things, or in the Bible, or in things of the church?
2. Have you confessed Jesus as your Savior? Or have you had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ?
3. If someone would ask you what does it mean to be a Christian, how would you answer?
4. Do you ever wonder how to live a good Christian Life?

If the person does not want to talk about their spirituality, or becomes angry or changes the subject, perhaps it is not the right time for him or her? We should be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He is the Lord over spiritual blindness. He gives us the freedom to be guided by Him to where the crop is ready or where the fish are. Ask God to open the door for you to speak to a certain person about Jesus Christ.

Talk about common interests they may have with you. When the opportunity comes up you use your Christian Testimony to make the connection for what CHRIST DID FOR YOU. This may give you an opportunity to go deeper as you observe his or her interests. Once this person wants to know God’s Plan, invite him or her to give you ten minutes to read the Bible (up to this point you have kept it out of sight). If he accepts, you can read some scriptures passages from The Step By Step Method of Biblical Witnessing to explain the plan of salvation. You must know some of these scriptures by memory and be certain that it is the verse you want to show him or her. Make a notation on top of the page where you find the first Scripture passage. Then, mark the next scripture that you will be using then turn to the next scripture and on top of that page annotate II for the second scripture you will be using. And the next to scripture III write the next scripture you will be going to. Follow this process through until you have noted all the scriptures you will be using. Please note that each opportunity may not necessarily mean that you will be able to use all the scriptures. Be sensitive to the person without being forceful nor easily discouraged from your task.

3. The Step by Step Method of Biblical Witnessing

1. JOHN 10:10b **“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”** You start with Jesus’ call to the Abundant Life of Salvation. (As you have marked in your bible go to the next scripture in the step by step method of biblical witnessing.)
2. ROMANS 3:23 **“All men have sinned and are now deprived of the glory of God.”**
Explain how sin is a problem that is common to all of us, and this is why we need Jesus. Ask: “How many sins does it take to become a sinner? (Look at your bible verse to see what the next scripture is and turn to it).
3. ROMANS 6:23 **“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** After he reads this Scripture you can point out to him what the payment of sin is and that it is a spiritual separation from the Lord Jesus. In addition explain how God gives us a gift, eternal life. (A gift is a spiritual gift [a charism] that we can not obtain on our own). Offer him your Bible and ask him to look at (Ephesians 2:8-9). **“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.”** (“What must you do to have this gift?”) The only thing he or she has to do is accept it. (Go to the next Scripture).
4. ACTS 3:19 **“Therefore, reform your lives! Turn to God, that your sins may be wiped away!”** Focus on the first part. “What does He say we must do to receive eternal life? This means to be sorry for your sins and not to sin again. (Go to the next scripture)
5. JOHN 1:12 **“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gives the right to become children of God.”** We can tell the person that they must accept Jesus Christ in order to be forgiven and be accepted as a child of God. This is not doing something but rather it is to receive someone, Jesus Christ, so we can become Children of God. (Go to next scripture)
6. REVELATIONS 3:20 **“Here I stand, knocking at the door. If anyone hears me calling and opens the door, I will enter his house and have supper with him, and he with me.”** Jesus is calling you and you must accept Christ so he can come into your life. Ask the person “Are you willing to answer the call of Jesus?” If he is unsure ask the person to think about this offer from God and that he may be turning down God’s gift. If he says “NO” be grateful for his honesty and ask him to really think about it today and let him go. (If he says “YES” look for the following Scripture.)

7. ROMANS 10:9-10 **“For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”** Faith in the heart leads to justification, confession on the lips to salvation.” Ask him or her “Do you believe Jesus can forgive you?”

Do you want to pray to accept Jesus as your Savior? If he/she says yes, invite him/her to close his/her eyes and guide him/her in a prayer to accept Jesus and renounce sin. After the prayer ask him/her to give thanks to God for being pardoned and for Jesus now being his/her savior. Finish praying for him/her and ask Christ to illuminate his/her life. And also pray that his/her new found faith reflects God in him/her. Before you leave, invite him/her to be part of a community, prayer group. Invite and give him/her directions, time and date of the gathering. Offer to give him/her a ride and stay in contact with him/her. Loan him/her books that may assist in his/her new walk with the Lord. Some suggested books are “The Cross and the Switchblade” by Nicky Cruz, “At Nine in the Morning” or “Pentecostal Catholics”, etc. or give him a pamphlet such as “the Life in the Spirit” or “Prayer can move Mountains”. If the book you give him/her is not a catholic book, tell him we are catholic and the same things that have happened in the book have happened to us. Ask him/her if he/she has a Bible or the New Testament. If not, offer him/her one.

PRACTICAL ADVICE

1. The best environment is one-on-one with the person. A second person may prevent the person from sincerely opening up as he may fear being made fun of.
2. Do not use religious or theological words – use ordinary every day language.
3. Avoid foolish questions like “Which is the truthful Church? Where did Cain’s wife come from” “Where was God when He made the earth?” they take you nowhere.
4. Do not be afraid to say “I do not know” but do not stop, talk about what you “do know” and about what Jesus has done for you. (Too many questions can be Satan’s tricks to interfere with bringing the person to Christ.
5. Avoid arguments – Try changing the subject back to the scriptures you have as your goal. Be sure that the person clearly understands how to accept Christ. The person may not be ready to accept Christ at this time but by knowing how to do so the person may do so later.
6. Be sincerely and personally interested in the person. Do not force the situation. Do not become discouraged, you will learn as you go along and even if you make mistakes.
7. Lift Jesus higher and not yourself, Christ must be PRAISED AND GLORIFIED.

It is important to practice your Witnessing Tools with the brothers and sisters in your Prayer Group. Use the Scripture verses you have learned: **“AND TRUST IN THE LORD”**.

(PLAN TO USE THE BIBLE IN YOUR WITNESSING)