

Crafting Your God-Story

Personal Testimony

What is a Testimony?

This is one of those “Christian-ese” words you may have heard for a long time, but don’t necessarily understand. Put really simply, it’s a word that means “*witness*”. It’s your story. If you’re following Jesus, it’s your story of what that means to your life. It can be your salvation story - how you came to a decision to follow Jesus and surrendered your life to him. It can also be your “right-now” Jesus story. What is Jesus teaching you? How is he shaping your life? How are you being transformed by him?

What is My Testimony?

That’s the fun part! Only you know your God-story! When we encourage people to write their personal testimonies, we ask them to think in a few different ways:

- *Before Christ (BC)* - What themes do you see in your life that others could connect with before you followed Jesus? Was it loneliness? Hurt? Anger? Fear? What else? How did that play out in your life?
- *Encountering Christ (EC)* - How did you meet Jesus? This may be an amazing, monumental moment where the glory of God filled a room and you were never the same! (Though this is rare...) Or, it may be that you were raised in a Christian home, or in a church, and you progressively handed more control to him (which is no less amazing!).
- *Since Christ (SC)* - How is Jesus shaping your life now? What hope have you found? What do you still struggle with? What is life like in this space of life now?

Usually, you can craft a couple versions of your God-story - a brief moment (2-4 minutes) and a longer version (7-10 minutes). I’d encourage you to work on both, but start with the shorter version as it will help you focus your thoughts and message more clearly.