

SESSION 7–8: WRITE & TELL YOUR STORY

Welcome and Program Overview (Facilitator): 10 minutes Session #7–8 Teaching: YOUR Story 10 minutes

Your story — regardless of how “spectacular” or “ordinary” you think it is — IS a story about God’s character. It is your eyewitness account of how God rescued you from sin and death through Christ, and changed your life as a result. When we share our story with others we help them get to know what God is like and what He can do. **There are five basic parts to your story:** the opening, your life before Christ, how you came to Christ, your life after Christ, and the closing

1. **The Opening.** Identify a theme you can use to frame your story. What did your life revolve around (e.g. relationships, your reputation, money) that God used to help bring you to Him? Briefly illustrate how that influenced your life.
2. **Your Life Before Christ.** Paint a picture of what your life was like before you came to Christ. Don’t dwell too much on, or brag about, past sin struggles. Share only the details that relate to your theme -- just enough to show your need for Christ.
3. **How You Came to Christ.** Give the details about why and how you became a Christian. Communicate in such a way that the person you are talking with, and anyone who overhears you, can understand how they can become a Christian, too. Even if your listeners are not ready for that, God could use your story and explanation of the gospel to draw them to Himself in the future.
4. **Your Life After Coming to Christ.** Share some of the changes that Christ has made in your life as they relate to your theme. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude or perspective, not just mere changes in behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, but what’s different about your life now?
5. **The Closing.** End with a statement that summarizes your story and connects everything back to your theme. If you want, close with a Bible verse that relates to your experience.

This is such an important part of this study, that we are going to give TWO weeks to this process. This week, you will spend some time discussing the element above of your story and then begin to write out your testimony in each category. At the end of the day, every believer should be able to explain how they got saved. YOUR story is for God’s glory, and the evidence of God’s transforming power!

Small Group Discussion: 25 minutes

After discussing your stories, also discuss baptism with your group.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and would like to make a public declaration of that decision, we encourage you to participate in a water baptism celebration. **See more info by reading this link** (<https://www.christianity.com/jesus/following-jesus/baptism/what-does-baptism-mean.html>) .

Pray with each other about being baptized as well as to find the time to finish this exercise and be ready to share your story next week.

(Next Week) Session #8: Share Your Written Testimonies

SESSION 7: Weekly Devotional Day 1

This week will be dedicated to YOUR STORY instead of the LIFE Starter Method:

Your personal story of following Jesus (your testimony) is one of the most powerful ways to share your faith. You don't need to be a seasoned Christian to share how Jesus changed your life. Your story can be the catalyst to seeing others changed by Him. Attempting to fit the many experience and emotions of life into WHAT, WHY and HOW (discussed in your small groups) can be challenging. To simplify the process I recommend defining a STATEMENT and a STORY for each of these points.

Day #1: Practice Listening Prayer

Take time to pause and ask the Holy Spirit "What aspects of my life and story do you want me to share?" Chances are, you already have an idea about what you want to write but take the time to ask Him first.

[A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.]

SESSION 7: ***Weekly Devotional Day 3***

Describe Why You Decided To Follow Jesus

Jesus can mean many things to different people. To some Jesus is Lord, to some He is a liar and to others He is a lunatic. Sharing who Jesus is to you and why you decided to follow Him is powerful.

“I decided to follow Jesus...”

• **Statement:** Define a statement which summarizes WHY you decided to follow Jesus.

• **Story:** Think of a story to support your statement. Detail your thoughts and emotions in the story. It may include the moment your attitude towards Jesus changed, how His love and mercy began to soften your heart, or the moment you realized who He truly is.

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