



STEP 2: SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY - CHAPTER 11

CREATING YOUR OWN STORY

Creating And Writing Your Individual Story Of Faith In Jesus Christ.

We are thrilled that you have expressed an interest in sharing your story. This is your testimony of how you came to accept Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death on the cross as repayment for your sins and the means for you to have a personal relationship with God. Please take some time to start your [rough outline](#) of how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior.

A Samaritan woman had an interaction with Jesus in [John 4:4-42](#). She becomes persuaded that He is the Lord and returns to her city to tell others about Jesus. The result of her telling others about Jesus is in verse 39, "[Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony.](#)" You might feel this woman's story is more impressive than yours, but let that not be discouraging. This is just one example in the Bible of an individual sharing their testimony of meeting the Savior. Everyone's testimony of how Jesus changed their life can be powerful and effective.



The Power Of A Testimony

People who hear about your Salvation experience and how God has drastically transformed your life will be excited to learn how God can change their lives. Your story is a hundred times more powerful than telling them the "theology" of Christianity alone.

A Christian teacher once said, "[Despite the intellectual discussions for the existence of God, still the most effective argument of all is a changed life.](#)"

The example of your changed life will generally do more to "pull" an individual toward Jesus over anything else. Nevertheless, it is insufficient for people to see you are different—they need to know why.

Telling your story is the most effective and reliable way of sharing your faith. Although an individual can reject that Jesus alone offers Salvation, they cannot deny the truth that you've discovered a reason to place your hope and faith in Christ.

Learning to share your testimony in 3 to 4 minutes is essential. If you can share your story quickly, you will find it easier to present the Gospel message. Please narrow down your testimony to the central key points.

You, by now, should have a [rough draft](#) of your testimony using three sheets of paper labeled "[before](#)," "[how](#)," and "[after](#)." If not, there is still time to share your story successfully. Please **start now** if you want to be **successful** at sharing your story.

METHOD 1 - SHARING YOUR STORY/TESTIMONY

We recommend reading a Biblical testimony by Paul the Apostle in [Acts 22:3-21](#).

Questions God. Com



Include these three areas:

1. Your Background [Before](#) (1 Minute.)
Example: [Acts 22:3-5](#).

You can discuss numerous things here, such as your life story in a nutshell, what you used to think of God before turning to Him, and so on. Include enough background information to convey what kind of person you were.

If you accepted Christ at a younger age, you might have difficulty thinking about what to say here, mainly because you can't recall ever not being a Christian. If this is your situation, talk about how you grew up, your family life, your wrong choices, etc.

2. Accepting Christ The [How](#) (Approximately 1-2 minutes long.)

Example: [Acts 22:6-16](#). Remember how Paul reveals that Jesus is Lord ([vs. 8](#)), and calling upon Christ's name is required to be forgiven of sins. ([vs. 16](#)). This is an effective and vital method of introducing the Gospel to somebody. After someone listens to your transformation story and shows interest, they should know how to turn to Christ and accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

A few things need to be discussed here in your testimony:

- God created us to have eternal life with Him.
- Sin separates us from God and eternal life.
- God loves us so much that He desires us to have fellowship with Him through His son, Jesus Christ. ([1 Corinthians 1:9](#)).

- We need to respond to Him.
Romans 10:9, "*If you declare with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*"

3. Life With Christ **After** (Approximately 1-2 minutes long.)

Example: [Acts 22:17-21](#). Briefly describe how your life has changed after you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. Discuss your hope in Him. When you finish, ask the individual, "*Has something like this ever happened to you?*" If they answer "no," ask, "*Would you want it to?*" No matter what they say, it is good to get them to think about their need for Christ.

METHOD 2 - SHARING YOUR STORY / TESTIMONY



Please put your story together in a logical order.

In method 2, there are five essential parts to your story:

1. Introduction.
2. Your life **before** Christ.
3. **How** you came to Christ.
4. Your life story **after** Christ.
5. The Closing.

1. Introduction (Opening.)

What did your life focus on (e.g., friendships, reputation, credibility, money) that God used to bring you to Him? In a brief discussion, illustrate how that influenced your life. Determine a **THEME** you can utilize to form your story.

2. BEFORE you came to Christ (1 minute long.)

Try to create a word picture of your life before you came to Christ. Don't obsess excessively or boast about past sins, struggles, and battles. Share only the details that connect to your **theme** just enough to reveal your need for Christ.

Some examples of words you can use to illustrate your life before Christ are *empty, overwhelmed, lonely, frustrated, futile, lacking importance, goalless, and prosperous but still unhappy*. Please remember to make your story relatable to the person you speak to.

3. HOW you came to Christ (1-2 minutes long.)

Please **describe** how and why you became a Christian.

- Talk specifically about proclaiming your faith in Jesus—where were you in life when this happened?
- Were you longing for truth?
- Did somebody share the Gospel with you?
- What made you respond to the Gospel message and accept Jesus as your Savior?

Connecting to the person you are speaking with is vital so they can better understand their need for God and how they can become Christians. Make sure you iterate how you were convicted of your sins and how you mourned over them and turned from them (repentance). It is essential to explain your newfound faith in Jesus.

4. Your life AFTER you came to Christ (1-2 minutes long.)

Share specific changes Christ has made in your life as they connect to your **theme**. Highlight the changes in your character, mindset, attitude, or perceptions, not just minor changes in behavior and habits. Ideally, pick areas that have changed in your life that the listener can relate to.

Be authentic, practical, and genuine. Be honest, as we still have a hard time as Christians, and life is far from ideal; however, talk about how great your life is today by having a relationship with Jesus, no matter our circumstances.

After you explain how your life has changed, please ask the listener this question? "**Has anything like this happened to you?**" If they say "**no,**" state, "**Would you like to have a relationship with Jesus?**" Regardless of what they say, the important thing is that you got them thinking about their own need for Christ.

5. Closing—Wrapping up

Be aware and conscious of how the person responds to your presentation. Finish with a statement summarizing your story and relating everything to your **theme**. If you prefer, close with a Bible verse that connects to your experience.

Proof of a changed life because of Jesus Christ

A lot of things have changed and transformed your life. A few of these changes are visible to others; others are internal. Use keywords as a springboard to describe your life experiences and to show evidence that your life has changed. This demonstrates that those who became Christians are now new persons in Christ. They are no longer the same, for the old life is gone, and a brand-new life has begun.



CHALLENGE

Don't just wing it if you want to get serious about sharing Christ with others. Take time to [write out](#) your story first and even memorize your testimony outline. Remember to use words that reveal emotions; "[An effective word presented is the best word to use.](#)" Your testimony will be far more effective if it is polished. But remember to keep it fluid enough so you can omit or add experiences for it to relate to different types of people. Practice in front of a

friend, a mirror, or video yourself telling your story numerous times.

Have you written your [first draft](#) to be successful at sharing? If not, please **start now!**

When Should I Share My Story

Share when you see that someone can benefit from your testimony. Examples: someone hurting, struggling, asking questions, looking for answers, or curious. When talking to people, be sensitive to following and trusting the Holy Spirit's leadership. Do a *follow-up phone* call or prearrange to *meet with them* within a few days after telling your story.

Always be adaptable and resourceful in a one-on-one conversation with friends, family, strangers, or small groups. Be prepared to share in any situation. Share your story with *courage, joy, assurance, and trust* that He will use your testimony for His glory.

Remember, you may not see instant results from the person after you share, but you are planting a seed for later conversations. The Holy Spirit will make the seed grow.

IMPORTANT: A FINAL THOUGHT ON YOUR STORY

You can't reveal the existence of God; however, you don't need to. Let Jesus do that Himself. Please let others know what Jesus has done for you and develop a connection and relationship with them. Reveal your need for Him and how much others need Him, too. Remember not to argue about Christianity. Nothing good will come out of that.

Let the person know you would be happy to listen and answer if they have any questions, concerns, or thoughts. Please make yourself available for whatever needs they have. Remember, you do not have to have all the answers to their questions. If you are asked a question you are uncertain about, say, **"I am not sure, but I will gladly check it out for you and get back to you."** Recommend being specific about a time to meet or talk again.

TEN GUIDELINES FOR SHARING



Your responsibility is to share your story; God controls changing an individual's heart. You are just called to be ready and prepared to share what God has done in your life. No matter how straightforward or complex, your testimony is meant to be spoken to point people to Jesus. ([John 4:29,39](#)).

If you've ever felt *anxious, worried, or unsure* about sharing your story, here are some suggestions to help you take that action of faith.

1. You have God's power.

The Holy Spirit provides us with the power to become His witnesses. **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** (Acts 1:8).

You don't need tremendous courage to share your story or even be an excellent speaker. Simply be truthful and sincere about who Christ is and what He's done for you. **"And so, it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I**

resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power."

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

2. God wants to use you. ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)).

He wants you to be part of other individuals' spiritual journey to faith. Your story might help connect someone to Jesus. A stranger was the first to present the Gospel to me. You may never know what a short conversation can do in an individual's life.

3. Everyone has a different journey. ([Acts 17:26-27](#)).

Don't allow presumptions to keep you from sharing your testimony. You can't tell whether somebody is going toward or apart from God based on outward signs. God is always at work in the lives of others.

4. Be prepared and organized. ([1 Peter 3:15](#)). (An excellent verse to memorize.)

The Scriptures say always be ready and prepared to present a reason for your hope in Christ. One excellent way to prepare yourself is to create and [write your spiritual story](#) (your testimony) before sharing the Gospel message.

5. IMPORTANT: Practice numerous times.

After creating and writing your story, practice it out loud several times. Try recording or videoing yourself on a device, aiming for about three to four minutes. Present your testimony while looking at yourself in a mirror or **practice** with a Christian friend.



6. Prayer.

- Ask God for opportunities to share.
- Ask Him to guide you when sharing your story.
- Ask God to reveal somebody to your mind—a friend, a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a stranger you met who doesn't yet know and recognize God.

After that, pray for God to attract that person to Himself.

7. Ask permission to share your story.

Before you jump in, ask the person first if it is okay with them if you can share your story. You might say,

- "Can I tell you a little bit regarding my spiritual experience?" Or
- "Can I tell you what happened to me?" Or
- "Can I tell you what happened to me that changed my life?"

8. Be a good listener.

Sharing your story is not supposed to be a one-way discussion. It's an opportunity to listen, pay attention, and be interested in the other person's story. Asking questions is one excellent method to do this. Consider these:

- "What is your religious history?"
- "What has been your spiritual experience?"
- "Where are you currently in your spiritual walk?"

9. Leave the outcome to God.

Share your testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the outcome to God. You do not know and understand how the Lord will move in somebody's life later on.

10. Keep this in mind.

It is an essential and necessary task for the Kingdom's sake as you speak with individuals with whom God loves and wants to have a relationship.

Excellent verse to memorize - Colossians 3:23-24,

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human master, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

We want to encourage you to tell your story.

Who has God revealed to you to share your testimony with? Please do it today! Pray for opportunities, and [share your story](#) with those individuals this week.

A Journey Of Chapter 11 Questions– Creating Your Own Story.

Embark on a journey of self-discovery, reflection, and personal growth. Explore your thoughts and emotions to understand yourself and your world better. Please reflect and give thought to these questions from Chapter 11.

1. What makes a personal experience (Your Story) more convincing than an intense discussion?

2. Fill in the blanks for [Romans 10:9](#) (New International Version.)

"If you _____ with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and _____ in your _____ that God raised him from the _____, you will be _____."

3. Create an image of a specific theme for your testimony (Your Story) in your outline.

4. What does it mean that your testimony should be fluid (flow freely)?

5. Please print or write out our [Word docx](#) or a [PDF file](#) that makes 3 drafts.

Tomorrow's Study Guide

Chapter 12

DEVELOPING YOUR TESTIMONY

Additional Sharing Handout Resources

Your Faith Story ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Writing My Faith Story ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

My Faith Story Questions ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Prospects List ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Set Sharing Goals ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Personal Sharing Handouts ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Spiritual Interest Survey ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Awareness Scale of the Gospel ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Steps For A New Christian's Growth ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

Use and print out our [Word-.docx](#) or a [PDF file](#) that makes 3 rough drafts.



LEADING
PEOPLE TO CHRIST



Questions God. Com

Want to Know God
I am a New Christian
Developing Christian
Daily Devotionals
Christian eBooks

HELPING
PEOPLE GROW IN CHRIST
QUESTIONS GOD. COM



Christian Resources
Bible Reading Plans
Bible Study Methods
Exploring the Bible
Have any Questions
Chat with a Christian

EQUIPPING
PEOPLE TO SHARE CHRIST
STUDY GUIDES

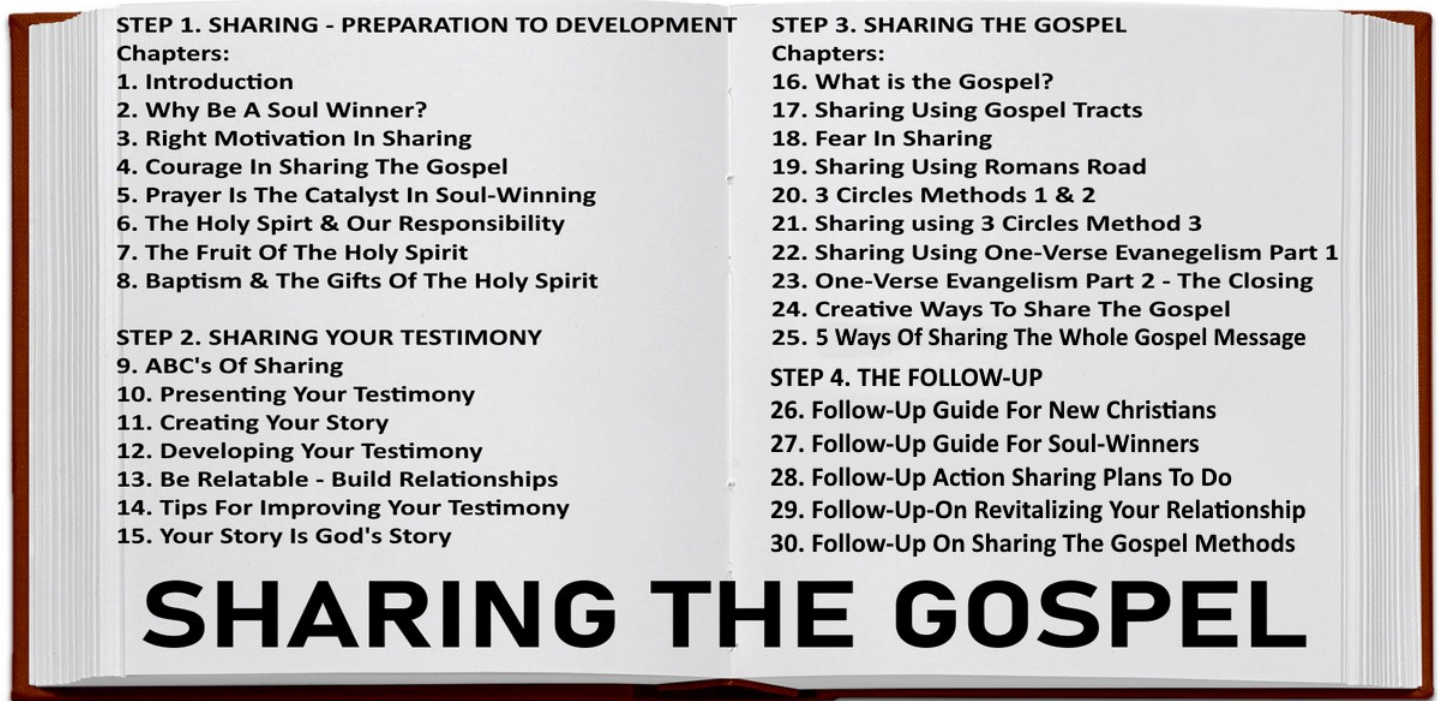


QUESTIONS GOD. COM

21-Day Study Guides
Plan of Salvation
New Christian Guide
Spiritual Maturity
Gospel of John
Sharing the Gospel

SHARING THE GOSPEL OUTLINE - 30-DAY STUDY GUIDE

Sharing our faith is among our urgent calls as followers of Jesus. Discover the heart of evangelism and exciting techniques you can utilize to help you reach others for Christ.



*Copyright © 2016 Questions God. Com, all rights reserved.
Reproductions strictly prohibited - Personal Use Only.*