

1.25.26 SERMON RESOURCES

MY TWO-MINUTE STORY

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)

The “15-Second Testimony” is one tool we already have in our toolbelt. Let’s now double-click and expand this testimony. The Two Minute Story expands our 15-Second Testimony and makes it a little longer. This tool will help you be ready when the Holy Spirit opens a door to share more about how Jesus has changed your life.

Good stories have an arc, which means they have a **setting, climax and resolution**. We don’t all have clean life stories with clear beginning, middle and end. When you develop your own story, think about these key elements:

- In the **BEGINNING (SETTING)**, describe your life before Jesus in two words, just like you did for your 15-Second Testimony (such as “meaningless” or “lonely”), but this time, elaborate in a few sentences.
- In the **MIDDLE (CLIMAX)**, tell us more about how Jesus rescued you from your sins. Bring us to an actual moment. Make sure you make Jesus the hero of your story! Aim for two or three sentences. Don’t feel like you need to write a full theological defense of the gospel. Be brief!
- In the **END (RESOLUTION)**, describe your life after Jesus in two words, just like you did for your 15-Second Testimony (such as “full of purpose” or “loved”), but this time, elaborate in a few sentences.

Can’t remember when you put your faith in Jesus? What if you feel like you don’t have a story? That’s okay! Just think about how Jesus has changed you recently. How has Jesus helped you or healed you? How has He rescued you from one of your struggles with sin or a conflict lately? What is one way Jesus has brought hope/joy/peace into your life recently? It can be that simple. People want and need to hear real and authentic experiences. **Here are the questions to ask yourself:**

	SALVATION STORY	SPECIFIC SITUATION STORY
SETTING	What were two ways your life was different before starting a relationship with Jesus?	What is one area of your life where you have needed to surrender to Jesus since beginning following him? What were two ways your life was different before Jesus rescued you from your sin struggle?
CLIMAX	How did Jesus meet you and rescue you from your sins?	How did Jesus rescue you from your sin struggle or conflict? How is it that Jesus helped you or healed you?
RESOLUTION	What are two ways your life is better now after becoming a disciple of Jesus?	What are two ways your life is better after Jesus rescued you? What does your life look like now that Jesus has helped you or brought healing to this area of your life?

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Here are some pro tips for writing your Two Minute Story.

- Create intrigue. Make your story “double-click-able.”
- Make it sound natural without using Christian jargon like “saved,” “born again,” or “converted.”
- Make it relatable.
- Don’t feel like you need to say everything. If the Holy Spirit is at work, you’ll have another chance to share more.
- Don’t make people think that everything is perfect after becoming a follower of Jesus.

Here is Pastor Allen Smith’s example.

*“There was a time in my life when I was very **lonely** and had **no purpose**. Even though I knew a lot of people, I felt like no one really knew me. Also, I was pushed into medicine, so I went to college to become a medical doctor. The more I studied at college, the more meaningless life was. So I looked for meaning in DJing parties, in running for class president, in romantic relationships, but all of them turned out empty. During this time my parents went through a divorce and I lost all sense of meaning and felt utterly alone.*

One day at my college dorm, my next door neighbor shared with me how God loves me and has a plan for my life. I heard the great news that Jesus died for my sins and gives me a new purpose. I couldn’t believe it! That day I met Jesus and he changed me.

*For the next few weeks, I sensed God’s love. Shortly after, He brought many amazing friends into my life, one of which I married! He also gave me a new purpose that has taken me to Guatemala, Peru, and now Annapolis. Though my life has been far from perfect, ever since I met Jesus, I have been **loved** and my life is now **full of purpose**.*

How about you, has anything like that ever happened to you?”

WRITE DOWN A ROUGH DRAFT OF YOUR TWO MINUTE STORY – ON NEXT PAGE

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WRITE DOWN A ROUGH DRAFT OF YOUR TWO MINUTE STORY:

SETTING: "THERE WAS A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN..."

CLIMAX: “ONE DAY...”

RESOLUTION:

How about you, has anything like that ever happened to you?"