



RESILIENCE

CONVERSATION #5: THE LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

READ: KEEP THE LIGHT ON

When the fog rolls in, and you can't see far ahead, every turn feels like a guess. That's when lighthouses matter most. They aren't built for calm seas - they exist for low visibility, loud waves, and moments when people aren't sure where safe ground is anymore.

A lighthouse doesn't fix the storm, and it doesn't force a ship to change course. It simply stands firm and shines - offering a steady point of hope when everything else feels blurred. And that's the beauty of it: a lighthouse doesn't chase ships in the middle of the storm. It doesn't argue with the waves or sprint up and down the coastline trying to convince anyone the rocks are real. It holds its place. It keeps its light on. When the fog thickens and the pressure rises, it does exactly what it was built to do - it shines.

Your testimony is like a lighthouse. It's not a sales pitch. It's not a debate. It's not you trying to force someone to believe what you believe. A testimony is simply your light - your real story of what Jesus has done in you - made visible for someone who might be navigating a hard season, a confusing season, or a searching season.

THE CHALLENGE:

Scripture calls us to be ready for those moments. The Apostle Peter says that we should "always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that we have - but to do it with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15). In other words: steady light, not a foghorn. Calm clarity, not pressure. So, this week, we're going to practice being lighthouses.

Challenge #5: THE LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE - You're going to prepare to share your testimony with five people who aren't currently following Jesus or who are unsure if God exists. You're not going to do this to win an argument - just to offer hope. Not to be loud - just to be clear. Because when your faith becomes steady enough to share, you're not just being fed anymore... you're learning to feed yourself - and help others find their way, too.

WHAT IS A TESTIMONY:

A testimony is **the story of Jesus' work in your life** - not a sales pitch, a debate, or a highlight reel. Your testimony is (1) **Personal** (what you've seen God do in you). (2) **Honest** (not polished, not fake). (3) **Hope-centered** (what changed and why it matters). (4) **Relational** (shared with love, not pressure). Your testimony is not (1). A theology lecture. (2). A "how bad I was" contest. (3) Proof that you have it all together. (4) A script you perform to impress people.

SUGGESTED STRUCTURE: You might consider working through this with your partner(s).

There isn't a perfect way to share your testimony. You don't need the "right" words, a dramatic story, or a polished delivery. You just need to be honest and clear about what Jesus has done in you. If you want a simple place to start—something you can practice and actually use - try the **3-Part Story Method**.

Part 1: BEFORE	Part 2: TURNING POINT	Part 3: AFTER
<p>"This was my life..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was I chasing, carrying, or stuck in?• What did I rely on for identity or peace?• What was missing, heavy, or broken? <p>Starter lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Before I took Jesus seriously, I was..."• "I was trying to find peace in..."• "On the outside I looked fine, but inside..."	<p>"This is what changed..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What moment, season, or realization opened your eyes?• What did you come to understand about Jesus?• What decision did you make to trust/follow Him? <p>Starter lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Something shifted when..."• "I realized..."• "I finally admitted..."• "I decided to..."	<p>"This is my life now..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's different because of Jesus?• What hope do you have now?• What's changing in how you think, respond, or live? <p>Starter lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Since following Jesus, the biggest change has been..."• "I still struggle with..., but now I..."• "Jesus is teaching me..."
<p>Closing line (1 sentence): "The reason I have hope is..." (<i>simple, personal, real</i>)</p>		

NEXT STEPS:

This challenge won't be easy. It takes time to craft your testimony, and patience to wait for real opportunities to share it. That's the point - preparedness is built, not rushed. Work with your discipleship partner to practice **1 Peter 3:15**: write your story, say it out loud, simplify it, and rehearse it until you feel ready - not perfect, just prepared. Then pray together for God to open doors and make you attentive to moments where hope is needed. After each time you share, **debrief with your group** - what happened, what felt hard, what you learned, and what God might be doing.

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

As you step into this challenge, remember - you're not just sharing a story. You're practicing everything God has been building in you through resiliency. **Perseverance** looks like staying faithful even when it feels awkward. **Consistency** looks like doing the next right thing, not the easiest thing. Growing deep **roots** looks like being grounded enough that approval doesn't control you. **Temptation** shows up as the "exit ramp" of avoidance - and you choosing not to take it. **Emotions** will get loud, but loud fear isn't the same as true danger. And most of all, this is **responsibility** = you're no longer outsourcing your mission to someone else. You're learning to carry hope, speak it with gentleness, and live like a lighthouse: steady, prepared, and shining.