

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We all love a good story.



Movies, books, Instagram and TV show us that stories touch us. Stories *move* us. For followers of Jesus, we get to tell people about *the greatest story* ever. You may not think that your story is very significant, or even matters at all, but it may just be the story that God intends to transform someone's life.

Telling *your* "God Story" is one of the most effective means of sharing your faith because, although a person can try to refute the validity of the Bible, they will have trouble denying the *life change* that following Jesus has brought about in your life.

This guide intends to help you share your story concisely, clearly and briefly. Work through each of the sections below. Try to share your story in less than 5 minutes. Then practice sharing your story with another follower of Jesus to help you gain enough clarity to contextualize your story for whatever circumstance.

What's your story?

Identify spiritual markers

- What were moments, events, or people in your life that "nudged" you closer to faith?
- How did God work in your life to help you understand how much He loved you?
 - Any spiritual marker can actually be expanded to become a single "God story"
 - **(Example:** if you're visiting with someone who has cancer, and you've had cancer, use that marker as a point of spiritual significance to share that story)

Before you pursued Jesus...

- What was your life like before pursuing Jesus?
 - What lies were you believing?
- How did your life show that you were in rebellion against God or an aspect of truth?
 - **(Example:** I used to think that I had to please people in order to advance/be accepted, so that led to poor decisions and bad behavior at times..)
- How did God bring you to the point of deciding to follow Him in faith?

What you chose to believe...

- How did *believing* in the good news of Jesus, and His Word in the Bible changed you?
- How did God's truth contrast with the lie(s) you had previously believed?
 - **(Example:** I struggled with telling the truth, but after I became a follower of Jesus, I found that I loved telling the truth & was freed from thinking I had to or needed to lie.)
- How did God's forgiveness, love or mercy change your perspective?

After you decided to follow Jesus...

- How has your life changed since you chose to surrender your life to Jesus in faith?
 - And/or how is it changing?
- Have you made any significant life changes in response to what you sensed God telling you or convicting you about?
- How has God brought joy, freedom, redemption, healed relationships, etc.?

The Wrap-Up

- Thank them for listening
 - **(Example:** “It has been an honor sharing my story with you. Thank you for the opportunity.)
- After you share your story, consider one of these questions:
 - **“Do you have any thoughts or questions about my story?”**
 - **“Did you hear anything that intrigued you?”**
- Be aware that God may use your story and this time to lead someone to trust Jesus
 - Be open to *inviting* them to consider trusting Jesus as their Lord

Other Considerations

- Realize your story may change depending on who you’re talking to and the circumstances
- Make sure your story is *Christ-centered*, not a *you-centered* story
- Be honest and do not embellish your story
- Be confessional and humble throughout your story
- Be respectful of people you may talk about in your story
- Use language that is easy to understand
 - **(Example:** don’t use words like sanctification)
- Don’t focus on a sensational past
- Rather, focus on how you are *currently* growing in your relationship with Jesus and why you continue to pursue Him *today*

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