



# How to share your story

A three session course  
equipping you to share your testimony

# SESSION 1

## How to share your story

### INTRODUCTION

If someone asked you how & why you became a Christian, what would you say? Sharing your story (testimony) of how you came to know Jesus is an amazing way of helping people to find out what it means to follow Him. We live in a world where personal stories grab people's attention, so in today's session we're going to explore what it means to share your story of faith in Jesus.

**Pray for God's help!**

**1. How do you feel about sharing your story with people?**

**2. How do the following verses encourage you in sharing your story if you think:**

- "My story is boring" – read 2 Corinthians 5:17
- "I'm too weak, too rubbish at stuff like that" – read Acts 1:8
- "I don't have all the answers" – read John 9:24-27
- "I'm really concerned about what others think" – read Eph 3:16-19

**3. How does someone become a follower of Jesus?**

- What does God (Father, Son and Spirit) do? – read John 6:44 and John 16:7-8
- What is our response? – read Acts 20:21

**4. Chat with the person next to you about which of the following best describes you:**

- I grew up in a Christian home & can't remember exactly when I became a Christian.
- I didn't grow up in a Christian home and I'm not sure when I became a Christian.
- I know when I became a Christian.
- I don't think I am a Christian.

**5. Praise God for sending His Son in the power of the Spirit. Thank Him for saving one another into a relationship with Him!**

**NEXT WEEK...** we're going to get to grips with answering: "What should I say in my story?"

**NOTE:** Some people can name a time when they became a Christian, others can't. The key issue in every case is whether you have repented of your sin (changed your mind/turned away from going against God) & believed in the Lord Jesus Christ (placed your whole life in Jesus' hands).

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# SESSION 2

## How to share your story

### INTRODUCTION

Last week, we explored what the Bible said about sharing your story. This week we're going to help each other to best explain how and why we've turned to Jesus.

**Pray for God's help!**

**Remember, when someone becomes a Christian the same two things always take place:**

1. Repentance means to change your mind, to turn away from going against God.
2. Faith means to take God at His word; to give your whole life and trust to Jesus.

**1. There are many ways to describe this. What is the common theme in the following verses?**

- Acts 26:18 – *'to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'* (NIV)
- Ephesians 2:4-5 – *'But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved.'* (NIV)
- Colossians 1:21-22 – *'Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.'* (NIV)
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9 – *'for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.'* (NIV)

**2. When it comes to sharing our stories, we often find it hard to know what to say. What should you talk about according to:**

- the Holy Spirit? – read John 15:26-27
- Mary Magdalene? – read John 20:18
- the man healed of demon possession? – read Mark 5:18-20

**3. Take 10 minutes to write out your story (or jot it down in some bullet points). Then thank God for the Holy Spirit who lives in you and points you and others to Jesus!**

**NEXT WEEK...** we're going to spend time sharing our stories with one another and think & pray about how we could use these stories with our college-mates. You may want to spend some time this week getting your story into your heart and head (don't forget the top tips!)

**NOTE:** the only way you can come to Jesus is by God's Spirit working in you, enabling you to repent and believe. Therefore, all testimonies are equally miraculous!

# SESSION 2 HANDOUT

## How to share your story

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### Top Tips

#### Your story:

- Is your story. It's **personal** so explain what happened to you. There's no need to add things.
- Has got to speak about and focus on **Jesus** (and His death & resurrection).
- Needs to explain something of the **change** "from" and "to".
- Is **honest** about good and bad things since becoming a Christian.
- Is an **appetiser** for people to consider Jesus for themselves (John 4:39-42).
- Is **heartfelt, brief** and **easy** to understand. Try to keep it to 3-5 minutes.

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#### My Story:

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# SESSION 3

## How to share your story

### INTRODUCTION

This week we're going to spend the time sharing our stories with one another. Then we'll think and pray about how we could use them to share Jesus with our college mates.

**Pray for God's help!**

**1. Before we share our stories, remember we can't change people's hearts. However, what are we trying to leave people with by telling them our stories? Read John 4:39-42.**

**Recap by reading through these Top Tips for sharing your story:**

- Is your story. It's personal so explain what happened to you. There's no need to add things.
- Has got to speak about and focus on Jesus (and His death & resurrection).
- Needs to explain something of the change "from" and "to".
- Is honest about good and bad things since becoming a Christian.
- Is an appetiser for people to consider Jesus for themselves (John 4:39-42).
- Is heartfelt, brief and easy to understand. Try to keep it to 3-5 minutes.

**2. Share your story in pairs or as a group.**

**3. Chat about what kind of event you could put on as a CU where 1 or 2 people could share their stories.**

**Get out a phone, calendar or diary and aim to host a party/event on or around a particular cultural day: Pancake Day; Valentine's Day; Easter, St Patrick's Day; Halloween etc.**

Think about getting some themed nibbles, games and music. What would work? Who could share their story of how and why they are a follower of Jesus?

Whatever the event is, pray about it, get permission for it, advertise it and let people know that one or two people will share their story of how they became Christians. (If you go with two people, perhaps have one from a Christian background & one from a non-Christian background – remember both are equally miraculous!)

**4. Praise God the Father for bringing you to know Him through Jesus, by His Spirit!**