

What is a personal testimony?

- Telling the story of how you became a Christian and what Christ has done in your life since then. (Acts 22:1-21)
- Sharing your testimony is a way to create interest for others who are far from God (John 4:1-30; 39-41).
- Your personal testimony is a bridge that God can use to bring people to faith in Christ.

How do you develop a personal testimony?

- Begin with an attention getting sentence.
- Present Christ, not yourself.
- Stress your ongoing personal relationship with Christ.
- End with a response question.

The 15-Second Testimony

“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did.” (John 4:29)

Read John 4:1–42. Like the woman at the well, we need to learn to share the story of what Jesus is done in our lives. Here’s an outline you can use.

Introduction	Life before	Meeting Jesus	Life since	Question
“There was a time in my life when...”	One or two statements describing your life without Christ.	How you received forgiveness through his death and resurrection and made him the ruler of your life.	One or two statements describing your life following Christ.	Do you have a story like that?”

My Life Before Christ

1. What was my focus in life? Where did I find security, identity or happiness? _____

2. How did those things begin to let me down? _____

How I Came to Christ

1. When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions? _____

2. When and why did my perspective of Christ begin to change? _____

3. What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him?

4. Why did I finally decide to accept Christ (or give Him complete control of my life)?

My Life After Coming to Christ

- 1. How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude and perspective on life. _____

- 2. What motivates me now? What do I live for? . _____

- 3. Even though my life still isn't perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that fact? _____

Here's an example:

Even though I grew up in a pastor's home, I haven't always lived for Jesus. After spending every Sunday and Wednesday in church, I had developed some wrong attitudes about God and His desire for my life. I tried to obey God's rules because I wanted to go to heaven, but I kept messing up, and I was afraid that I would die and go to hell. At the same time, I was a pretty good person—at least better than some of the people around me—so I didn't understand why my life seemed to be falling apart. When my family moved during my freshman year of high school for my dad to work at a new church, I was overwhelmed and angry.

A few months after we moved, our youth group had a big weekend-long event called "Disciple Now," and my parents made me go. I still remember sitting in the back of the gym while the preacher spoke about Jesus and what it means to follow Him. I thought, "I've heard all of this before. This isn't for me." But on Saturday night, I heard


