

## Your story about Jesus

### A New Method of Evangelism

*Find another person and sit down and share your story with each other. 5 minutes! The person listening, jot down the main points.*

#### **1 Your story re examined**

1 Peter 3:15

*Not how but why*

*Going back to your stories to what extent did you share the process of becoming a Christian and to what extent did you share the 'hope that you have'?*

#### **2 The Cross at the centre of your story**

It's not your story, it Jesus' story.

*How is the work of Jesus described? Or put another way, what did Jesus achieve?*

*Some key passages: Mark 10:45, Colossians 2:13-15, John 3:16. Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 5:8-10, Philippians 2:9-11....*

*Your story re examined in light of the Cross: What is it that you understood about the Cross (or put more broadly the person and work of Jesus)?*

### **3 Sharing your story with some sizzle**

**Rough it** – Write it out roughly now. Write out how Jesus has affected your life. Don't worry about being sharp and snazzy at this stage, just get it down on paper in a paragraph or two.

**Rearrange** – say the important bits. Think through what is important and what isn't. What points clearly to Jesus and his work? Is there a plot line? One simple way of structuring it might be a Headline: one sentence that gives the big idea. Then: Before the work of Jesus, After the work of Jesus in your life and then the Future.

**Reword it** - trim out the unnecessary details or the confusing parts. Could I express some part in a more interesting way? Am I being specific or vague?

**Rough it**

**Re arrange it**

**Reword it**

**Here are 7 principles:**

**Short & sharp**

Traditional testimonies are given in a planned way, on a stage with a reasonable amount of time. But testimonies in more casual contexts often need to be a little shorter, a littler sharper. Our goal is 100 words or about 1 minute of speaking.

**Use natural language**

Just use everyday natural language. In fact the less Christian jargon, the better. Kill the jargon.

**Truthful**

Don't make things up. Kind of obvious, right? But it is always a risk when we want things to sound impressive or especially interesting. But don't worry God's work is always impressive to those who he is calling.

**Interesting**

What is your angle? What might draw them in or get them listening, wondering what the next part is. One evangelist used to say you have to hook 'em, hold 'em, humour 'em, hang on to 'em and hit 'em!

**Line**

What is the plot line? Most stories have a situation, a complication which creates tension and then an eventual resolution. This plot line must not move into a lie or a grey shading of what happened. We must still speak the truth. What we are doing is thinking through a memorable way of explaining that truth.

**Conclude it**

What happened? How did you change in your understanding of God, Jesus or the Bible? What effect has this had going forward?

**Ask a question**

End it all with a question that gently invites a response.

#### **4 A new method of evangelism part 2 – listening**

In the middle of someone else's story

The secret of listening - asking questions:

Questions like, What will make my life happy?, What will make me satisfied? How can I and my family be secure? Why is life so difficult? What will help me be healthy? How can I be fulfilled?

How does the great news about Jesus answer them?

## **5 Sharing your story of God's work everyday?**

What recently have you come to understand about: yourself, the Christian life, Jesus, God the Father, Salvation

**Rough it, Re arrange it, Reword it**

### **In summary:**

The great evangelistic skill you need to develop is talking and listening.

Sharing your story with the Cross at the centre

Sharing your story with some sizzle – rough it, re arrange it, reword it

The second key to evangelism is listening and asking questions

You can do it everyday