

APPENDIX B

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Your spiritual story is your most powerful tool for sharing Christ!

What is “your story”? Your story is the retelling of when and how you trusted Jesus Christ. It is your most powerful tool for sharing Christ with people who do not know Him because no one can deny your personal experience. With a little preparation you can be ready to share your story—ready to share about Jesus with people in your life.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV84) says, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

PAUL’S EXAMPLE

Your story should follow a basic outline. The Apostle Paul shares his story in Acts 26 when he stood before King Agrippa in Rome. He was prepared as he explained his story in an effective manner with gentleness and respect for his audience. Paul provides a good outline we can follow with our own spiritual story:

1. **Acts 26:4-11** • Paul’s life before he trusted Jesus for salvation
2. **Acts 26:12-19** • How Paul trusted Jesus for salvation
3. **Acts 26:20-23** • How Paul’s life changed after trusting Jesus for salvation

DEVELOPING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

Some tips as you prepare your spiritual story:

- Pray and ask God to guide you as you prepare.
- Follow the Acts 26 outline:
 - My life before believing and receiving (trusting) Jesus;
 - How I came to know and trust Jesus;
 - How my life changed after trusting Jesus.
- If you placed your faith in Jesus as a child, emphasize your life since trusting in Him.
- Try to begin with a thought provoking or attention getting opening statement.
- Include enough detail to keep it interesting, but respect the time of your listeners.
- Weave the Gospel into your story so that others will know how to place their faith in Jesus.
- Practice your story with a mature believer. Get feedback, then practice it until it becomes natural.
- Smile! Remember, you are sharing “Good News!”

Some things to avoid as you prepare your spiritual story:

- Avoid using Christian jargon such as “saved,” “convicted,” or “born again” as these might confuse and alienate non-Christians.
- Be careful not to emphasize or glorify how bad you were.
- Avoid superlatives like “glorious,” “best ever,” “wonderful,” which tend to cause others to perceive your story as exaggerated.
- Try not to mention denominations or other groups even if you have positive feelings about a specific ministry or church. Your listener might not share your opinion.
- Do not give a false impression that the Christian life automatically becomes easy or that you no longer have struggles.

As you share your story, remember the ABC's:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Be brief.

Center on Jesus.

Your story can be effective in any casual situation: over a meal or coffee, on the golf course, at the lake, at a ball game, on a drive; anywhere you are having a conversation with a non-believer can be a great place to share your spiritual story. People are interested in your story and may identify with it. No matter what your past has been, your story is valuable and can be used by God to help another person learn about faith in Jesus.