

Before You Begin:

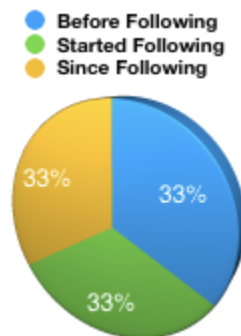
- **Pray** - Ask God what He would have you share to communicate His story and His glory.
- **Clarify Your Main Purpose** - What is the one takeaway that you wish to communicate. Try writing it down using ten words or less.
- **Consider:**
 - How can you lift up the work of Jesus in your story?
 - Will you share honestly about your struggles in an appropriate way?
 - What Scripture truth did God use as a part of your growth toward Him?

Your Story Shared in Three Parts:

There are three essential parts that you can focus on as you write your story. Spending time telling a clear picture of these three seasons of your life will ensure that you clearly communicate Jesus' work in you:

1. **Before Following** - What was your life like before you started following Christ?
2. **Started Following** - When and how did you start following Christ?
3. **Since Following** - As a result of Christ's work in your life, what does life with God and others look like now? (Please give a clear picture of your relationship with God and others).

Divide up your story focusing equal time to the three seasons of life:



As you are thinking through each season of life, take a moment to read the apostle Paul's story in 1 Timothy 1:12-17:

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

"The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

"But for that very reason, I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Questions/Outline to Guide Your Writing

You can answer these questions to provide the bones to what you want to share and then come back to fill in the blanks connecting your story.

Intro (Max 50 Words):

Hi my name is _____. I have New Life in Christ, and I want to share with you a bit of my story and what Jesus has done in my life... (You can add a few more personal words to the intro to set the stage for telling your story)

Before Following (Max 500 Words):

- Was there anything in your upbringing that others could relate to?
- In what ways was your life not working before Christ?
- What was your view of God?
- What was your attitude toward others in your life?
- At what point did you know that something needed to change? What was the turning point?

When You Started Following (Max 500 Words):

- How did God show you that New Life was possible?
- Was there any person that Christ used in your journey to follow Him?
- Was there any event that Christ used in your journey to follow Him?
- What scripture truth was critical to your experience with Christ?
- Describe how you sensed Jesus was moving in your life? What were you feeling?
- Be sure to share your experience of coming to follow Him using simple language.
- What began to change in your life?

Since Following (Max 500 Words):

- How has your view of God changed?
- How do you now pursue God in a relationship?
- Are you sharing your faith and the Good News of Jesus with others?
- What changes has God made in your relationships with immediate family?
- What changes has God made in your relationships with friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.?
- How do you now handle the temptation to sin?
- How do you handle conflict?
- How has being a part of the church/community with others changed you?
- What areas of your old life are gone? Or how have those areas changed?
- How has your perspective on life changed?
- How have your motives changed?
- How has your speech changed?
- Where else do you see the fruit of God's work in you?

Conclusion (Max 50 Words):

- What encouragement can you give someone who is hearing your story?
- Restate your personal intro and add one sentence pointing to Jesus for the changes in your life.

Reviewing Your Story

(You can ask yourself the following three things to review your story)

- Did your story give a clear picture of the main thing you wanted the hearers to know?
- Did you use simple language that those outside the church could understand?
- Did you point to Jesus? Did you mention His Word, His Spirit, and His working through His people?

Congratulations! There's no story like yours! God, use this for your kingdom's advance in Jesus' name, Amen.