

Your Story in His Story

Helping Kids Write and Share Their Testimony
By Rev. Judy Weeks

A Message to the Mentor

This tool is intended to be used for mentoring students who are third grade and older and who have come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. This tool is designed for the mentor to work through this packet with the student on an individual basis.

It is important that the writing skills of the student not hinder this process. It is suggested the student be allowed to dictate their story while the mentor writes it down. This will help the student with their flow of thought and it will release frustration from the writing process.

Once the student has composed their story, find opportunities for him or her to share it. Sharing it in a Sunday school class setting or another children's program is a great starting point. A mid-week adult service could be the next level of opportunity for your student share.

This story is your student's opportunity to share what Jesus Christ has done in his or her life. The goal is to help your student be comfortable in sharing their story and to be sensitive in listening to the Holy Spirit for opportunities to share on a one to one basis. Pray with your student for future opportunities to share their story on an individual basis to others. Pray with your student for discernment regarding with whom they are to share their story. Pray for your student as they step out in faith to share their story.

Thank you for making the difference in the life of a student through your mentoring. The story of God in their life has resurrection impact on those who hear it. You are helping their story to be heard.

A Message to the Student

Congratulations on your willingness to be used by God to share your personal story of how he has made a difference in your life! This is your unique story and only you can tell it. Your journey is an important gift God has given to you, and others need to hear it!

Some people have a story that is very eventful and others have a story that is more tame. Regardless of what your experience in coming to know Jesus looks like, it is your story and it needs to be told! It is your “testimony”. In other words, it is your story to ‘testify’ that Jesus has changed you.

Your story is powerful! Did you know your story has the potential to inspire others to seek God and to encourage those who need encouragement? Your story in His story has the potential to be the spark to create a life-change in other’s lives as they respond to Jesus. This is your opportunity to change the world around you!

The next few pages will help you craft your story to share with others. It is worth the time and effort to complete, because you will have a written testimony that will help you powerfully illustrate how God makes a difference in a person’s life. This will be something you will want to have for the rest of your life, so it is worth the time it takes to write it out. Hang in there and finish it! You will be so glad you did...and those who you will impact will also be so glad you did!

Jesus has given you a story of how He changed your life, and He is planning to use it to change more lives. The world is waiting to hear your story in His story. Write it, share it and watch Jesus change the world around you, through it.

What is a testimony?

A testimony is the story of how God has been at work in a person's life. It is your spiritual-life story. It is your statement of faith in Jesus Christ. In sharing your testimony, others will see the map of your spiritual journey. It is a story about you and your relationship with Jesus.

Why should I share my story?

Sharing your story is important because others need to hear it and it will also help you in your spiritual growth. Sharing your testimony is a blessing to the one whom you share with as well as for you. Romans 1:12 the apostle Paul tells us that it is beneficial for us to be "mutually encouraged by each other's faith."

How will you and others encouraged by your story? You will be encouraged as you spend time preparing your testimony as you think, pray and write about what God has done in your life. Taking time to prepare your story will bring a sharper picture of God's work in your life and increase your gratitude for what He has done for you. In addition, others will be encouraged as they hear what God has done in your life. Your story will encourage others to be more receptive to God in their lives and it will remind them of the greatness of God's love.

No one can deny your story. Your story is your story. No person can disagree with your story because it is your journey. The beauty of your story, is that it is a real life example of our real God in a real life. Those who do not yet believe in Christ will be encouraged as they see how God is relevant to their daily life, through hearing your story.

What if my story doesn't sound interesting?

No person is born a Christian. That means there was a time in your life before you chose to receive Christ as your personal Savior. So how did you get from knowing about God to knowing Him as your personal Savior? Most students do not have a wild trouble-filled life before they come to know Jesus personally. For many students, it is a process of asking questions, watching others who follow Christ, accepting God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life, and submitting to His Holy Spirit in daily life. Your genuine story of Christ in your life will encourage others.

Do you come from a Christian home and cannot remember a time when you didn't believe? Have your family help you identify a period of time where you realized you wanted something more than to just come to church. Have them help you identify the period of time when you started having a desire for a personal relationship with Christ.

Faith in Christ is not just a one-time event. It is an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ.

How do I start?

Here are some questions to consider before you write your story.

1. What was my life like *before* I met Jesus?
2. *How* did I hear about Jesus?
3. How was my life different *after* I met Jesus?

You can think of it like this formula:

Before + How + After = My testimony

Before:

What were your thoughts about Christians, God, and church?
What problems did you wrestle with?
What were you doing with your life?
In which direction were you headed?
How did you feel about God?

How:

How did you meet Jesus?
Who talked to you?
What was said?
Where were you?
What did you say or pray?
What were you feeling?
What were you thinking?

After:

What has your life been like after you chose to trust Jesus to be the Lord of your life?
Be honest about this part. We are on a journey and it is okay to share that you still have struggles and are still learning how to follow Jesus! Share what you have learned and where you hope to be as you follow Jesus each day!

My Story in His Story Worksheet

Complete the sentences below to begin writing your story. You DO NOT have to use every sentence. This is merely a guide. Which sentences really reflect your heart? Which sentences present the best picture of your story?

Your story should be only 3-5 minutes long. (Use a blank sheet of paper to write out your story.)

BEFORE + HOW + AFTER = My Story

“Before” Section:

“Hi, my name is _____, and this is my story of how I came to know Jesus.”

“Before I met Jesus, I felt that I... .”

(Share what was missing in your life. What deep need did you have that you tried to fill before you knew Jesus? Examples might include loneliness, sadness, fear of death, no real friends, desire to be in control, desire to be center of attention, problems at home in your family, lots of questions, etc.)

“The important things in life for me were... .”

(Share what your life revolved around and how those seemed to give you happiness and security. Possible examples include sports, school, friends, relationships etc.)

“My thoughts about Jesus, and the Bible were... .”

(Share what your thoughts were about God, and the Bible and why you felt that way. Did you have certain questions about God?)

“My thought of life after death and the future was... .”

(Tell how you felt about the future and if you had any fears.)

“How” Section:

“But then I met/heard/got invited to... .”

(Who told you about Jesus?)

“I heard...”

(What Bible verse/story/incident first opened your heart to Jesus? What did you hear that helped you begin to see that God was real?)

“Then I realized that I... .”

(Describe how you knew you needed Jesus. What fears did you have? Did you have any questions? What did you do?)

“In order to give my heart to Jesus, I... .”

(What did you do or say in order to give your heart to Jesus?)

“After” Section:

“Now that Jesus is the Lord of my life I... .”

(What does this mean to you? What questions have been answered? What fears have been taken away?)

“When I think about Jesus I... .”

(How do you now feel about Jesus, the Bible, going to church, other Christians?)

“Some of the questions I still have are... .”

(Be honest. Do you still have any concerns or fears?)

“But now I can look forward to the future because... .”

(How do you feel about the future? What plans do you have? Who do you want to tell about Jesus?)

REMEMBER: This worksheet is only a guide to help you. You do not have to follow it exactly.