



MY FAITH STORY

KEYWORD



Your story is one of the most important tools you have been given by God to share the gospel with the world around you! The most powerful part of a testimony is explaining the WHY behind your decision to follow Jesus. Before sharing your story for the first time, make sure to write it down, practice out loud, and pray that God would use your story as you share it!

1. START WITH A KEYWORD

The first step in writing down your faith story is choosing what keywords describe your life before Christ. Below is a list of words. Circle two or three that adequately describe how you felt as a result of a problem you faced without Christ in your life. You are not limited to this list, so feel free to choose a keyword of your own! This part helps keep your story compelling and on track.

Anxiety - Lost - Guilt - Shame - Defeated - Without future - unheard - lonely - empty - ashamed - unforgiven - unclean - judged - stuck

There are over **8,000 promises God** made in the Bible. If your word is different from this list, find another promise of God that you most relate to, find it's antonym as your word, and share how Jesus brought fulness to your life.

2. SET UP THE BACKGROUND

Now describe the situation in which you came to face this problem and why your keyword describes the way you felt. It is more important to be honest than dramatic. This helps people to relate with your story personally and understand why we need God in our lives. If you need more space, continue on the back.

3. SHARE HOW JESUS ENTERED YOUR STORY

Now describe how you came to know Jesus. Be sure to describe that moment or that process, if you can, with adjectives that show how meaningful and impactful it was for you. Try to describe how Jesus touched your heart and how you responded, such as asking Him to be your Lord and Savior. This part challenges people's idea of what God is like.

4. STATE THE IMPACT OF CHRIST ON YOUR LIFE

Now describe how Jesus impacted your problem and your life. Use the emotion opposite of your keyword and share how Christ either reversed your problem or is continually giving you the power to overcome. This is the part that inspires your hearers to place their hope in Jesus! Remember those key words from the beginning of your story? Think about the promises we have discussed this month, talk about how God fulfilled his promise and flipped the problems you have faced!

Anxiety - Peace

Lost - Found

Guilt - Free

Shame - forgiven

Defeated - Victory

Without future - Eternal life

TRAINING SHEET

TALKING POINTS

Finding the power in your story will depend on how you learn to tell it. The first step to being able to tell a powerful story is to **WRITE IT DOWN**. It will give you the ability to edit the specifics and memorize. The second is to **PRACTICE OUT LOUD** with a close friend or parent so that they can give you useful feedback. The third is to **SPEND TIME IN PRAYER AND IN THE SCRIPTURE** to ask God to speak through you before you share your story publicly, because God can do more in others through you than you can do by yourself!

During this time today, we are going to walk you through the outline to help you get started. You will have the chance to pick your word, set up your background, talk about Jesus and how Jesus has made a difference today in who you are. Let's get started.

1. What is your keyword?

Do not be afraid if something does not jump off the page for you. Wait, think, and listen as others share. You may even find that if you pick a word tonight, that another word rises up in your life and you change your word tomorrow or next week.

My word is _____. Anyone else willing to simply shout out your word?

2. Let's set up the background:

(EXAMPLE: "my parents divorced when I was younger... I blamed myself and began to feel unworthy of relationships... so I become isolated and alone because I was afraid of being **rejected** for being unworthy...")

What is your story. AGAIN, do not be confused or worry if nothing comes to mind right now. This is deep stuff and can sometimes take months or years to remember all the stories you've gone through. Take some time and write a word that reminds you of your story. Later today I would encourage you to write out the story in it's entirety. It will help you spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually by doing this. Writing brings clarity and understanding - even the clarity and understanding to why it hurts as bad as it does. That said, this takes courage. BOLD courage for some.

3. Talk about how/when/where Jesus entered your story.

(EXAMPLE: "One summer I attended church camp with my youth group and we talked about new identity in Christ and being loved as God's children. God began to speak to my heart and to my issues of unworthiness and fear of rejection. One evening I experienced the love of God and realized that Christ died for my sin, so that I could have a loving relationship with God. So I asked Him to save me and forgive me of my sin. The impact of that moment changed everything.")

Be sure to pick/find a Bible verse that helps turn your keyword into health, wellness, and wholeness.

4. Share the impact this change has made on your life.

(EXAMPLE: "What changed after that was my view of myself. I began to trust that God really did love me and want me to be in relationship with Him. I had once been **unworthy**, but now I was given **worth**. I was once **isolated** and **alone**, but now I see myself as **wanted, loved, and together** with God and His **family**. I was once afraid of **rejection**, but now I know that I am fully **accepted** by Him, and He is daily giving me the faith and the strength to overcome those attitudes of the past.")