

APPENDIX B

Sharing Your Story

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. No one can deny your personal experience. With a little preparation you can be ready to share your story—ready to share Christ!

1 Peter 3:15 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.”* Being able to share your story is a great way to obey this passage.

Paul’s Example

Your story should follow a basic outline. Paul shares his story in Acts 26, giving us a good outline we can follow with our own story.

Acts 26:4-11

Paul’s life before he trusted Christ

Acts 26:12-19

How Paul trusted Christ

Acts 26:20-23

How Paul’s life changed after trusting Christ

Developing your Story

Some things you should try to do as you prepare your story:

- Ask God to guide you as you prepare.
- Follow the Acts 26 outline:
 - My life before believing and receiving (trusting) Christ
 - How I came to know and trust Christ
 - How my life changed after trusting Christ
- Emphasize your life since trusting Christ if you accepted Christ as a child.
- Begin with a thought provoking or attention getting statement.
- Include enough detail to keep it interesting.
- Weave the Gospel into your story.
- Practice your story with a mature believer and get feedback, then practice it until it becomes natural.
- Smile! Remember, you are sharing “Good News!”

Some things you should avoid as you prepare your story:

- Don't use Christian jargon such as “saved,” “convicted,” or “born again” as these might confuse and alienate non-Christians.
- Don't emphasize how bad you were.
- Don't use superlatives like “glorious,” “best ever,” “wonderful.”
- Don't mention denominations or other groups even if you have good feelings about a specific ministry or church. Your listener might not share your opinion.
- Don't give the impression that the Christian life is a “bed of roses” or that you no longer have struggles.

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

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Be brief.

Center on **CHRIST**.

Remember, your story can be effective in any casual situation: over a meal, on the golf course, at the lake, at a ball game; anywhere you are having a conversation with a non-believer can be a great place to share your story. People are interested in your story and can identify with it. No matter what your past has been, your story is valuable! For more information on sharing your story or learning to effectively share Christ, contact:

Fellowship NWA—
communityministries@fellowshipnwa.org

Fellowship Fayetteville—
fayettevillecommunity@fellowshipnwa.org