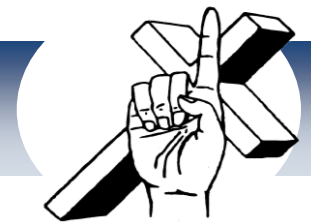


Personal Witness of Faith



Sharing your personal story of faith is an effective way to tell an audience or an individual your gratitude or appreciation of what God and He alone has done in your life.

I. PRE-OUTLINE

- A. Pray for the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you work out your testimony (James 1:5-6).
- B. Think through any spiritual changes or guidance that God has brought about in your life. Then pick a topic that best applies to your life, whether it relates to what God did for you, what He means to you, how important God is in your life, or how God brought you to faith.
- C. Pick one or two scripture verses that best apply to your topic.
- D. At the end of your testimony you may wish to sing a favorite song or quote a portion of a song that best applies to your topic.

II. OUTLINE

- A. A carefully planned and well organized presentation can help you present Christ in a clear, attractive and simple way, better than one given without much thought.
- B. Below is a suggested outline to follow:
 - 1. Begin with an attention getting sentence.
 - 2. Share an aspect of your Christian life.
 - 3. Share how God strengthens your Christian life.
 - 4. Share how God is helping you through a struggle of life.
 - 5. In closing, share an applicable Bible verse and perhaps a song.

III. WRITING

- A. A short, well planned testimony will do more than one that is long, dragged out, and causes the audience to become lost. Try to be short and to the point, about three minutes.
- B. Emphasize that Jesus makes the difference in your life.
- C. While writing, avoid the following:
 - 1. Making negative or humiliating statements about churches, denominations, organizations, or individuals.
 - 2. Copying another person - give your own testimony.
 - 3. Overworking certain words such as fantastic, exciting, great, etc.
 - 4. Using large words or stereotyped expressions such as justification, redemption, born again, conversion, hallelujah, praise the Lord, etc.
- D. Be honest, sincere, positive, interesting, and realistic. Jesus does not eliminate all problems in life, and struggles often reoccur. However, Jesus does give us the power to live in peace in the midst of problems and struggles.

Form 320

Thought-Starters and Ideas, page 1

PICK THE BEST TOPIC THAT APPLIES TO YOUR LIFE	FOLLOWING ARE SOME HELPFUL THOUGHTS	PICK ONE BIBLE VERSE	YOU MAY INCLUDE A SONG
WHAT DID GOD DO FOR YOU?			
1. He saved me from my sins	Share the joy of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ. "I was once eternally lost, but now I am saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."	Isaiah 12:2 Isaiah 43:25 Romans 6:23 Romans 10:13 Eph. 1:7 1 John 1:9	Freely, Freely Robe of Righteous God is so Good Hallelujah, Let Hosannas Love is God's Gift Sino Alleluia
2. He gave me the Assurance of Heaven	Share the joy of knowing that then you die you will go to heaven through believing in Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin. You may incorporate one of the witnessing methods in this personal witness	John 3:16 John 4:13 John 5:24 John 17:3	For God So Loved The Steadfast Love I Am the Resurrection Love is God's Gift
3 He delivered me from an accident, or rough surgery or through a death in the family	Share how God has kept or strengthened your faith in God while going through one of these trials. Share how you were totally helpless while in the hospital, and compare that with the lives of your audience. "I am totally helpless-when it comes to saving myself, but Jesus Christ saved me by dying on the cross. He forgives my sins and assures me of eternal life."	Psalm 23:4 Psalm 27:1 Matt. 11:28 Romans 8:35 2 Cor. 1:10 James 1:2-3 1 Peter 1:6-7 1 Peter 4:12-13	Cast Thy Burden Come to the Water I know where I'm Going The Answer Through it All Love was When Promises
3. He strengthened my Christian faith through OAFC	Share what your faith in God was like before and after you attended your first OAFC weekend. And how God strengthened your faith through Bible Study, singing, or witnessing. Tell how God gave you the absolute assurance that you will go to heaven. Always give the glory to God and not to a person or thing. Tell how God worked through OAFC.	John 11:25 John 20:31 Romans 5:1 Romans 10:17 Ephesians 2:8	You may use a favorite OAFC song
WHAT DOES GOD MEAN TO YOU?			
1. He's First in my life.	Share how other people or material things were first in your life and how God was last. "God showed me how lost in sin I was without Him. Now I believe in Jesus as my Savior from sin. He is now and always will be number one in my life. He means more to me than anything in this world, because He died for my sins.	Matt. 6:33 John 12:25 John 14:6 Ephesians 2:8 Hebrews 13:5	He's Everything to Me Dear Jesus Seek Ye First The Greatest Gift
2. He is my Best Friend	Share how you can sometimes trust in a friend. "But now in my life Jesus is my best friend, who I can totally trust as my Savior from sin and in eternal life. Jesus will never lie or leave me."	Prov. 18:24 John 14:18 John 15:13-15 1 Cor. 1:9 2 Thess. 3:3	Happy Am I Jesus, Jesus What A Friend

Thought-Starters and Ideas, page 2

PICK THE BEST TOPIC THAT APPLIES TO YOUR LIFE	FOLLOWING ARE SOME HELPFUL THOUGHTS	PICK ONE BIBLE VERSE	YOU MAY INCLUDE A SONG
HOW IS GOD IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE?			
1. He gives me a purpose for living	Share that as a Christian I can be assured that my sins are forgiven and that He gives me eternal life. "My purpose for living is to always be an ambassador for Christ sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout my life."	Isaiah 43:10 Matt. 16:24 Matt. 28:19-20 Acts 1:8 Gal.2:20	Be of Good Cheer Good Morning Lord Everybody Ought to Know
2. He gives me direction for living	Share how God has made a difference in your life from before you believed in Him to now. "He has changed my life from living for the world and for myself to living for Jesus. I was once a loser, but now I am a winner through Jesus Christ God's Word gives me direction to live for Jesus and not the world."	2 Cor. 5:7 Gal. 2:20 Gal. 5:16 Titus 3:5 Hebrews 13:6-7 1 John 1:7	For Those Tears Free The Answer Titus 3.5 If Any Man I Know Where I'm Going
HOW DID GOD BRING YOU TO FAITH? AS AN INFANT, YOUTH OR AN ADULT?			
1. He brought me to faith through a friend, family member, or spouse.	Share what your life was like before you believed in Jesus (empty, lost, no purpose, etc.) and what your life is like after you believe in Jesus as your Savior from sin (peace, happiness, assurance of heaven, forgiveness, etc.). Share when and where a friend told you about Jesus Christ and how God's Word worked faith in your heart.	Psalms 119:67 John 1:12-13 John 6:44 Romans 5:1 Romans 10:17	I Am I Am the Bread of Life I Know Where I'm Going The Answer
2. He brought me to faith through Holy Baptism	Share that you were brought to Holy Baptism either as an infant by your parents or as an adult. And that through Baptism you, were a new born Christian, by the Holy Spirit. Share how the Holy Spirit worked in your life through God's Word in devotions, Church, Sunday School, and OAFc, always strengthening your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin. You are able to boast about what God has done in your life.	Matt. 28:19-20 John 3:5 Acts 2:38 1 Cor. 12:13 Gal. 3:27 1 Peter 3:21	His Sheep Am I The Steadfast Love. Jude Promises See This Wonder in the Making