

SHARING YOUR FAITH

Your personal testimony is a powerful tool to share with others. It is simple, it is personal, and it can be shared in about five minutes. Below is one way you can put your personal testimony together. The goal is to share your testimony in about 5 minutes.

I. Personal Testimony: Develop your testimony around 3 simple questions.

1. My life before I became a follower of Christ.
2. How I came to be a follower of Christ.
3. My life since becoming a follower of Christ

II. Scriptures to help support you as you share with someone.

1. God loves you and wants you to have a meaningful life and spend eternity with him. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in him would have eternal life."
2. John 10:10 "The thief's purpose(our enemy) is to steal, kill and destroy. God's purpose is to give them a full and satisfying life."
3. Our sin separates us from God. Romans 3:23 "Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."
4. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
Jesus paid our death penalty on the cross so we could have eternal life. What a gift!!!
5. Romans 5:8; "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."
6. We must repent of our sin and believe in Jesus in order to accept his free gift of eternal life. Romans 10:9-10 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."
7. Everyone must make that decision for themselves. No one can do that for you. Acts 2:38: "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

After sharing this information with a person, you should ask if they understand what you have shared with them. Some people may not have much Bible background and the verses may confuse them. Use your own judgment. If there are parts they don't understand, take all the time you need to help them understand. Listen more than you talk, ask questions.

III. Leading them to faith in Christ - If you are confident they understand, ask if there is any reason they would not want to place their faith in Jesus and become a follower. If there are objections, again, walk through it with them as you do not want them to feel pressured into making a decision. If not, you can help lead them through a prayer to surrender their life to Jesus. In that prayer they should:

1. **Admit** that they are a sinner and acknowledge that their sin separates them from God.
2. **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son who died on the cross for our sins and came back to life for us.
3. **Confess** Jesus as Savior and Lord of your life. Surrender your life to Him.
4. **Thank God** for sending Jesus, forgiving their sin, and saving them.

IV. Next Steps - Praise the Lord. You've just had the privilege of helping someone become a Christian. But the work is not done. Now you need to help them take their Next Steps in their spiritual journey. Here are a few suggestions.

1. **Go public!** One of the first things we should do after coming to faith in Christ is tell others. Help them to think of 5 people they should share this great news with — family, friends, co-workers, etc.
2. **Get baptized** - Invite all the friends and family you can think of. Let them witness you publicly confessing Jesus as your Lord. Baptism is symbolic of one's decision to become a Christian. It is a public profession of their faith in Christ.
3. **Find a church** to get involved in and start worshipping with other Christians. Obviously we'd love to have them join us at Immanuel but of greater importance is that they get involved with a solid Bible believing, living their faith out loud kind of church.
4. **Start reading the Bible** and studying it with other people in a small group. A good place to begin reading the Bible is the book of John. Make sure they have a translation of the Bible they can understand. If they don't have one, let us know and we can provide a Bible for them. We have many options when it comes to Bible studies, and they can be found at ibclex.com/grow.