

# PREPARING AND SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

## SAMPLE TESTIMONY FROM ACTS 26:

Lead-In	Verses 2-3
BEFORE	Verses 4-11
HOW	Verses 12-20
AFTER	Verses 21-23
Close	Verses 24-29

## KEYS TO EFFECTIVE SALVATION TESTIMONIES:

1. Before, How, After
2. Include the gospel in your “HOW”!
3. Whatever “felt need” you use to connect with people, be sure to emphasize that the greatest need that Jesus freed you from was condemnation from your sin.
4. Be succinct!

## THREE FORMATS OF TESTIMONIES<sup>1</sup>

**Format 1:** Adult Conversion

**Format 2:** Early Conversion/Adult Deeper Commitment

**Format 3:** Early Conversion/Consistent Growth

## SAMPLE OF FORMAT 1: ADULT CONVERSION

**BEFORE** A few years ago, I found myself lacking purpose in my life. Something was missing. Nothing seemed to fill the void. I had majored in electrical engineering in college and got a good job when I graduated. For three years, I put in extra hours and finally got a promotion, but I had no real satisfaction in that. I began working longer and longer hours, giving myself to my profession. This began to have a negative effect on me. I kept telling my wife that I was only doing it for her and the kids, but I knew that was a rationalization. What had started out as the "ideal" marriage was coming

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<sup>1</sup> The “three formats of conversion” content, including the sample testimonies, is taken directly from *Deepening Your Roots in God’s Family: Strengthened in the Faith as You Were Taught* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2019), 68-76.



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apart at the seams. I got to the point that I did not want to go home at night. "Happy hour" was more fun than arguments.

**HOW** In my next job, I was asked to attend an engineering seminar with David and Jack from work. David seemed to have a certain something that was missing in my life. On the way home from the seminar, David told me about how Christ had changed his life and had given him a whole new reason for living. Many of the things he said seemed to be similar to my situation. He talked about having been successful in business, but somehow he fell short of what he wanted out of life. Then he said that the answer to his frustration was to have personally committed his life to Jesus Christ. In a prayer, he'd admitted to God that he had done many things that he knew were very wrong. He had turned control of his life over to God. David told me that the Bible said that **Christ had died on the cross so we could be forgiven for everything we had ever done wrong**. I had heard this before, but now it seemed to make a lot more sense. A couple of days after the seminar, I took a walk down by the lake near our home. **I prayed and confessed to God** some of the things I had done that I knew had hurt and displeased Him. I asked Christ to come into my life and take over because I wasn't doing a very good job with it by myself.

**AFTER** Well, there was no flash of light or strong emotion, but I do know that I felt as if a large weight was lifted from my shoulders. Not everything is perfect now, but I do feel as if I have a whole new purpose for living. God has given me more stability and purpose. It is now very important to me to know that I will be with God after this life.

### SAMPLE OF FORMAT 2: EARLY CONVERSION/ADULT DEEPER COMMITMENT

**BEFORE** Not too long ago, you could have characterized my life as lacking any real inner peace. Everything around me seemed to be in utter turmoil. Nothing I did would ease the tension in my life. It didn't seem as if anything could fill the longing that was growing in my heart. I thought I could fill that emptiness by getting involved in activities. I joined the health spa, took golf lessons, and was involved in transporting our children to their various sports and lessons. I considered going back to work part-time. Then my husband received a promotion and we were transferred to another city. If I had felt tension before, the move just added to its intensity. It seemed that the only relief I found was from taking tranquilizers, but that was only temporary and it scared me to realize that I was beginning to depend on them.

**HOW** We had gotten out of the habit of attending church over the years, but the Johnsons invited us to go to church with them, so we started going. After we had attended for a couple of months, we decided to participate in a Bible study group. There we met people who were fun but took their Christianity seriously. They began to encourage us to really commit our lives to Christ. We reviewed some things I had heard while growing up: **that we were all breaking God's laws and deserved to be separated from Him but that God had provided the way to restore that relationship with Him and that provision was the death of His only Son, Jesus Christ**. What I needed to do about it was to **acknowledge my disobedience** to God and turn from it and ask Christ to take over my life as my Savior and Lord. **So I asked Christ to apply His death to me and to take over.**

**AFTER** It wasn't until we got involved in that Wednesday-night Bible study that I really understood what it meant to be committed to Jesus Christ. I was learning that I couldn't experience inner peace while neglecting God. As a result of the Bible study, I made a whole new commitment to Christ. The



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inner peace that I was striving for so desperately was finally there. But the greatest thing of all is that I know for certain that I have a personal relationship with God through Christ and have eternal life.

### **SAMPLE OF FORMAT 3: EARLY CONVERSION/CONSISTENT GROWTH**

**BEFORE** As a single person, I see other singles feverishly trying to put together a happy, fulfilling life. They are into travel; some try the bar scene, dating, high-tech toys, sports, and even substance abuse. I also see married men and women (where I work) trying to put their lives together without really knowing how. I'm involved in many of the same social activities as other singles. I enjoy working out and running. I save up my money to take short overseas trips when I find a good price. But I have a contentment and stability that elude many people. This new stability began in my life during high school.

**HOW** As I was growing up, my parents were very active in church. Because they were active, they figured that I should be also, so every Sunday, there we were. It was real for them, but for me it was just socializing with friends. Then one summer I attended a church camp. This changed my whole view of "religion." I discovered at this camp that Christianity was more than just a religion; it was a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Some of the discussion groups centered around who Jesus Christ was and what He did. One day after sports, my camp counselor asked me if I had ever personally committed my life to Christ, or was I still thinking about it? I said that I was still thinking about it. We reviewed some key Bible verses about steps I could take to establish a meaningful relationship with God through Christ. From the Bible, **I saw that I needed forgiveness and that God was offering the gift of eternal life. I put my trust in Jesus Christ's death on the cross for me. I prayed right there and asked Jesus Christ to apply His death on the cross to me personally.**

**AFTER** As I grew physically and mentally, I also grew spiritually. I find that when I try to do things my way and leave God out of the picture, I have the same struggles as everyone else. But when I let Him be in control, I experience a stability that can come only from Him. The contentment I am experiencing through my relationship with God has impacted my job performance in positive ways and has helped me be less self-centered. But the greatest benefit is knowing that I have eternal life through Christ.



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FORMAT 1: ADULT CONVERSION	FORMAT 2: EARLY CONVERSION - DEEPER ADULT COMMITMENT	FORMAT 3: EARLY CONVERSION - CONSISTENT GROWTH
Before you met Christ, what were some of your needs, or what was missing in your life?		What are some needs or things missing that you have observed in other people?
What solutions did you try that didn't work?		What solutions do you see that aren't working for people?
What circumstances caused you to consider Christ/make a deeper commitment to Him?		Explain how your relationship with God through Christ has made many of these things less of a problem for you.
Tell how you trust Christ, briefly including the gospel.	Refer to how you trusted in Christ, briefly including the gospel.	Refer to your conversion experience. Briefly include the gospel; state how you trusted Christ.
How did Christ meet your needs ( <b>especially your need for forgiveness from sin</b> )?		Give an example of how Christ is meeting your needs ( <b>especially your need for forgiveness from sin</b> ).
End with a sentence to the effect that you know you have eternal life through Christ.		