

Testimony Training Session

1. Paul, the great evangelist had his testimony ready to give....

- Luke gives it once – **Acts 9:1-22**.
- **Acts 22:1 – 21**. To the hostile Jews in Jerusalem who sought to kill him.
- **Acts 26:4 – 23**. To King Agrippa when he's on trial.

2. Giving our testimony is powerful spiritual warfare.

Our ability to give testimony has a powerful effect on our spiritual lives:

Revelation 12:11 “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”

3. Virtually every time the Holy Spirit is given in the Book of Acts the believers share the Gospel. (Acts 2:4-11; 4:8,31; 7:55-56; 8:17; 10:44-46; 11:24; 13:9-10; 19:6-11.)

To engage people with your Testimony:

Work with Your story, my story (or my testimony), God's story (The Gospel).

Engaging people in conversation is made easier by asking them questions about themselves. A helpful acrostic is:

ROCI (Pronounced “Rocky”)

- **R**esidence – do you live around here?
- **O**ccupation – what type of work do you do? Note: don't ask what they're currently doing because some folks are out of work.
- **C**hildren or family: Are you married or do you have kids?
- **I**nterests – What do you enjoy doing to relax? Or what kind of hobbies do you have?

The idea is show interest in them. Listen and hear “**their story.**” Then...

The Bridge: There are many ways to bring up spiritual matters in everyday conversation.

Some very direct ways include asking questions such as,

- “It sounds like you have faith in God. Do you consider yourself a Christian?”
- “Tell me about your spiritual journey – what's that been like?”
- “Do you ever think about spiritual things?” or...
- “Do you consider yourself a spiritual person?” or...
- “What is the most important thing in the world to you?” or...

Once you have turned the conversation to spiritual things you can usually find a way to naturally share an account of how you came to follow the Lord.

- “I have found that faith in Jesus has been very helpful in my life. Could I tell you a little bit about it?” or...
- “Can I share with you the most important discovery of my life?”

If someone is concerned about something, and you are able to relate:

- “I have had issues with such and such before. Can I tell you what helped me to get through that?”

I find if I ask questions about them and show interest and listen, they are almost always interested or willing to listening to me. And then I share my testimony...

The Testimony: Many people in the Bible shared their personal testimonies. Some examples are the Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5:18-20), the Samaritan woman (John 4:28-30, 39), Peter and John (Acts 4:18-21) and Paul (Acts 9:1-22; 22:3-16; 26:9-18). You should read these passages to get some ideas about how to share your faith in this way.

Your testimony in 3 parts:

1. Your life before Christ.
2. How/why you came to Christ.
3. Your life after Christ.

If you're a new believer:

- Your life before Christ.
- Why you came to Christ.

Those raised in the Church:

- An account of what difference it makes in your life to be a child of God. This is appropriate for anyone.

What we'll do now:

- **Take a sheet of paper.**
- **Write down your testimony.**
- **Plan on sharing it in 2-3 minutes.**
- **We'll practice it 5 times with a partner.**
- **Allow your partner to coach you and help you improve it.**

The coaching role is important!

Don't **just** be nice and affirming and smiling. We **DO** like to encourage people even if it's bad. Remember **Proverbs 28:23 (CEV) Honest correction is appreciated more than flattery.**

You want to give feedback, you want to coach – help them be effective. Do it in love. Was there anything unclear? Or hard to understand? Or didn't make sense? Something you wanted to hear more about? Let them know how their testimony can be better. We don't want to send folks out with a bad testimony just because we were afraid to hurt their feelings. They'll be so blessed to go out with a good testimony that impacts people!