

## SESSION THREE: CRAFTING YOUR TESTIMONY INTO A GOSPEL TOOL

### TESTIMONY WORKSHOP



Using Your Story  
for God's Glory

2. You were **blind**. 2 Cor. 4:4 Eph 5:8 1 John 2:11
  3. You were enslaved to sin. John 8:34; Rom 6:22; Titus 3:3; 2 Pet 2:19b
  4. You were disobedient. Eph 2:1-3 1 Pet 2:8
  5. You were dominated by sin. Eph 2:1-3 Col 3:5-8
  6. You were hostile toward God. Rom 8:7; Col 1:21; 1 Tim 1:13
  7. You were estranged from God. Eph 2:12, 19 1 Pet 2:10
  8. You were **hard**-hearted. Acts 7:51 Rom 2:5
  9. You were headed toward God's wrath. Rom 1:18; 2:5-11; 5:9; Eph. 5:6; Col 3:6; 1 Pet 2:8
- B. Verses that Describe Your **Conversion****
1. Confession of Sin. 1 John 1:9
  2. Faith in Christ. Acts 16:31; Rom 1:16; Rom 10:9; 10:10; Eph 1:13; 2:8; 1 John 2:23; 4:15
  3. Repentance. Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:20; 20:21; 2 Tim 2:25; 2 Cor 7:10
  4. Obeying the Gospel. 2 Thess 1:8; Heb. 5:9; 1 Pet 4:17
  5. Receiving the Gift of Salvation. Rom. 6:23b; 2 Tim 1:9
- C. Verses that Describe Your New Life**
1. Born again. John 3:3, 7; 1 Pet 1:3, 23
  2. Possessing Eternal life. John 3:16-17; Rom 6:23; 1 John 5:11, 13
  3. Receiving Light. John 8:12; Acts 26:18; 2 Cor 4:6; Eph 5:8; 1 Pet 2:9
  4. Justified. Rom 5:9
  5. **Delivered**. Gal 1:4 1 Thess 1:10

#### I. REVIEW

##### A. The Power of a Testimony:

The personal declaration of an individual or group about what they have witnessed, experienced, done, or said.

1. Different kinds of testimony (divine, legal, commercial, personal, religious, salvation).
2. Our conversion testimonies should be in line with what God has testified about salvation in His Word.

**B. Problems in Testimony Telling:** In addition to the built-in limitations that testimonies have, there are some unnecessary hindrances: Too much pride, too little confidence, too much error, too little Bible, too much confusion.

#### II. ELEMENTS OF A GOOD TESTIMONY

##### A. Before & **After**

1. Describe what your life was like before.
2. Describe how your life is different now.

##### B. Humility & Praise

1. Don't glorify your past sins or your new self.
2. Give glory & thanks to God for his grace.

##### C. **Openness** & Discretion

1. Share as openly as you like about your life before Christ.
2. But don't share details that are likely to cause others to stumble in their thought life.

#### D. Story & **Scripture**

1. Explain what happened to *you*, not just what God does for sinners in general.
2. Weave verses or phrases of Scripture into your account, especially when you talk about your hearing the gospel.
3. God's Word is the thing that brings a sinner to new birth. James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23

#### E. **Sin** & Judgment

1. Our most fundamental problem is sin, our estrangement from God.
2. It's vital that we communicate how God made us aware of our sin and the judgment that we rightly deserve.

#### F. Conviction & **Conversion**

1. Some people's testimonies include a "before & after," but they fail to explain the transition point.
2. Recount how God awakened you to your sin and the judgment to come.
3. Recount how you came to have confidence in the forgiveness that God offers through Jesus Christ.

#### G. Salvation & **Hope**

1. It's important to play up the great transformation that God has made.
2. Share how you now have a rock-solid hope.

#### H. You and Christ

1. Without the "you" in your testimony, it's not a story, but an impersonal lesson.
2. Some people's testimonies are strangely silent about "Christ."
3. It's so important for people to understand that God has revealed Himself to us in Christ.

### III. ILLUSTRATED BY **PAUL**. Acts 22:1-21. Paul's testimony illustrates many of these aspects of testimony telling, some more directly than others.

#### A. Before (vv. 3-5) and After (vv. 17-22)

#### B. Humility & Praise

1. Humility - relayed in his confession
2. Praise - relayed in descriptions of God's glory, & in the high commission he received.

#### C. Honesty & Discretion

1. Honesty - recounts his life as a persecutor (vv. 4-5, 19-20)
2. Discretion – no blow-by-blow description of Stephen's death

#### D. Story & Scripture

1. Doesn't quote Scripture directly, but he does quote Jesus.
2. The command to be baptized has common Scriptural phrases.

#### E. Sin & Judgment

1. Sin (vv. 8, 16)
2. Judgment – implied in the blinding light & the call to repentance

#### F. Conviction (vv. 6-9) & Conversion (vv. 10-16)

1. Note: Paul closely connects his conversion with his baptism. While his baptism didn't activate his salvation, it was symbolic of the new beginning of his life.
2. There's value in referring to one's baptism in a testimony

#### G. Salvation & Hope (implied in his sense of new purpose & mission)

#### H. You and Christ

### IV. USING SCRIPTURE IN YOUR TESTIMONY

#### A. Verses that Describe Your **Lost** Condition

1. You were lost. Isaiah 53:6 Luke 19:10 1 Peter 2:25

#### NOTE

Some important topics are not in this telling of Paul's testimony, such as reference to Christ's **atonement**. Bear in mind that Paul was before an angry mob and couldn't say all that he might like to. On other occasions, Paul speaks of Christ's atoning work in great depth.