

- c. **Ask someone to help you.** Ask a pastor or a Bible study leader to review your testimony for biblical accuracy and clarity. Be open to suggestions for improvement. (**Editing** is painful, and being edited is even more painful—but it can be very good.)
 - d. **Print out your testimony or post it online.** Consider printing out a short version with a link to a longer version. You can also include links to other gospel related website. QR codes are a great way nowadays to provide quick links.
3. **Recorded Testimony:** Consider making a video recording of the short and long version of your testimony. With smartphone capabilities as strong as they are now, it's not as difficult to create a decent quality video.
- a. **Short Version:** Film a video “short” or “reel” of 60 seconds or less that tells your story in quick fashion.
 - b. **Long Version:** Film a longer version that lasts perhaps for a few minutes. You can do this using various formats.
 - **Monologue:** You are the long speaker, though you might ask someone else to film it.
 - **Interview:** Ask someone else to ask you leading questions about how you came to Christ and how He has saved you.
4. **Online Outlets:** The internet is full of opportunities to post various versions of your story.
- a. **Social Media:** Post a reel or Facebook or Instagram or whatever social media platforms you like to use. Just be sure that your other online posts and comments don't cast a cloud over your testimony.
 - b. **Video Platforms:** Many individuals now have YouTube channels or dedicated space on other media websites.
 - c. **Dedicated Website or Webpage:** Maybe you'd like to create a special website or even just a dedicated page on an existing site to host your testimony, perhaps with that of others, as well.

SESSION FOUR: IDEAS FOR USING YOUR TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY WORKSHOP



Using Your Story
for God's Glory

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. There are different kinds of testimony (divine, legal, commercial, personal, religious, salvation). 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 built-in limitations, some unnecessary hindrances include too much pride, too little confidence, too much error, too little Bible, too much confusion.

C. Elements of a Good Testimony:

A good gospel testimony (when told in its fullest form) should include Before & After, Humility & Praise, Openness & Discretion, Story & Scripture, Sin & Judgment, Conviction & Conversion, Salvation & Hope, You & Christ.

II. OBSTACLES TO USING YOUR TESTIMONY

A. Having a “Fuzzy” Testimony.

It's possible to be certain that you are saved but uncertain as to the exact date of your salvation.

1. This can be both embarrassing and unsettling for some.

a. This is partly due to the way our Evangelical churches describe the experience of salvation as a crisis event.

b. While every true Christian has a moment of new birth, God often draws people to Himself thru a series of events. **Jn 9.**

c. Some believers have a sense that God was working in their life, illuminating their understanding piece by piece, and that they eventually realized that they believed.

d. While they can't say exactly when was the moment of their new birth, they are very clear that they are saved.

2. A fuzzy testimony (with reference to the date of conversion) need not be an ineffective testimony. The most important thing to stress is that one is certain one is trusting Christ now for salvation, and that God clearly drew one to Himself.
- B. Having a **Childhood** Testimony.** Some believers were blessed to come to Christ at a very young age.
1. They might be tempted to think that their story is unconvincing out of concern that some listeners might think that ...
 - a. Such a story is inauthentic because a child cannot make truly meaningful life choices.
 - b. Such a story is uninteresting because it is no great example of life transformation.
 2. But childhood testimonies can have real power.
 - a. You can stress how you grew up differently than you would have had you not known the Lord. You were saved “in advance” from a life of sin you might have had.
 - b. You can share post-conversion stories of God’s grace in your life, growing you in an awareness of your sinful estate without Christ and the rich blessing of having Him in your heart. **2 Timothy 1:4-7; 3:14-17.**
- C. Not Having Much of an Audience:** The longer we continue in our Christian journey, the more likely it is that our old contacts diminish.
1. This is natural, in one sense. When we become believers, we often find ourselves at odds with our old circle of friends and even family.
 2. The more our circle of relationships **shifts** to new Christian friends (our brothers and sisters in Christ), the more intentional we need to be in nurturing holy relationships with those who do not know the Lord.
- D. Contradicting Your Verbal Testimony with your Visual Testimony:** Our actions can speak much more loudly than our words. If we have a reputation for being unkind, rude, arrogant, angry, inconsiderate, unforgiving, or other such things, we should not be surprised that our verbal testimony is not well received. **Matt 5:16.**

III. OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

- A. **Informal** Settings:** There are an endless number of unscheduled opportunities for us to share what Christ has done for us in salvation. These informal, unplanned encounters are what some theologians have called “gossiping the gospel,” the natural sharing of something important in our lives with others.
1. **The barbershop / salon chair.** Conversations often open up about all sorts of topics with our hairdressers.
 2. **Home-visit repairman.** Some repairmen enjoy talking with their customers as they work or when they’re done.
 3. **Over the fencepost.** As we get to know neighbors (new and old), there will likely be occasions to share about your journey to Christ.
 4. **On lunch break.** While employers often frown on using on-the-clock time for religious conversations, you may find opportunities when you’re free.
- B. **Formal** Settings.** Formal settings provide the prime opportunity to share a more fully crafted testimony. Crafting a “formal” testimony can also be useful for informal settings, as well, helping us think through what we can share when we have less time.
1. **Spoken Testimony:** Sharing your story at a Bible study or baptism service is often a good first step in becoming better at telling your testimony. You’re among friends who are anxious to hear about what Christ has done for you.
 2. **Written Testimony:** It’s a good idea to compose a written version of one’s testimony.
 - a. **Create a Short Version and a Long Version.** Start with the long version and then edit it down into a short version (3-4 paragraphs).
 - b. **Use **Discretion** about Personal Information.** It is advisable to limit sensitive personal information in your testimony so it is less likely to be used by hackers or spammers.