

Sharing Your Testimony – the “15 Second Story”

Personal testimony is so powerful because it demonstrates that God has power to change our lives! It is a story of contrasts between our old life and our new life in Christ. But one of the biggest mistakes in sharing our testimony is that we share too much detail. Sometimes the listener won't give you enough time to get to the part where Jesus has changed your life. The other problem is that we are too fearful to talk with an unbeliever for any appreciable amount of time—so we just don't share at all.

This simple method makes it easy to share your testimony by using four simple words or phrases. You will note that this is a very scripted method, but this is done purposely to keep you on track and to avoid getting wordy. Remember, it should only take ~15 seconds!

Create Your 15 Second Story

Think of TWO WORDS that describe your life *before* you met Jesus.

Think of TWO WORDS that describe your life *after* encountering Jesus.

One Simple Story with 3 Statements and 1 Question

1. “There was a time in my life when I was....

_____ and _____.

2. Then I met Jesus, turned from my sin and put my trust in Him because He died for my sin and rose from the dead three days later!

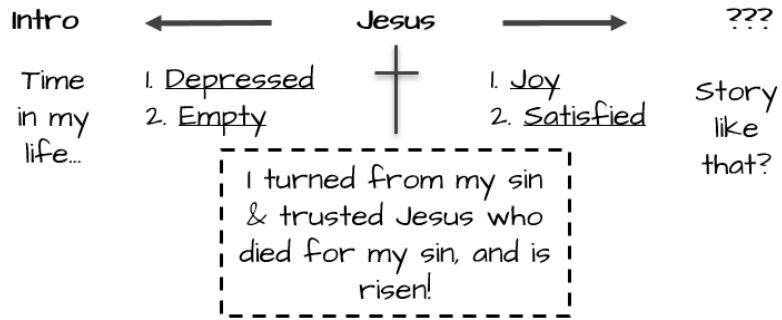
3. Now I am....

_____ and _____.

4. Do you have a story like that?”

Visual & Script Example:

“There was a time in my life when I was **depressed** and **empty**. Then I met Jesus, turned from my sin and trusted Jesus because He died for sin and rose from the dead three days later. Now I have **joy** and am fully **satisfied** in Him! Do you have a story like that?”



The Question is the Key

That last question (“Do you have a story like that?”) is very important, as it invites the other person to share their own experience. This question turns the encounter into a **conversation** and avoids becoming a **presentation**.

When you practice this method in a group, use that last phrase to pass it along to someone else in the group to practice it...and on and on.

If you became a believer at a very young age and don’t remember your life before Jesus, then think of two words that describe a time of crisis, uncertainty or a season of rebellion. Then just omit the phrase “I met Jesus” and just say, “Then I put my trust in Jesus and began to obey Him as my Lord and Savior”. Make it work for your situation and adapt it to any conversation!

Most importantly:

- **Practice:** Rehearse your 15 second story verbally. In addition, practice it by drawing it out (like the image above) using the space below!
- **Engage:** Start using it by sharing with unbelievers as you engage them in conversations.
- **Train:** Teach other believers how to share their 15-second testimony as well!