

# First Friends Church Testimony Tool

## Essentials of Sharing a Testimony from Paul's Example

When we commit ourselves to Jesus, a profound transformation takes place in our lives, and this changed-life story is known as a testimony. A testimony is sharing how your relationship with Jesus has impacted your life. The Bible tells us that when we become Christians, our "old" self is left behind, and we are made new because of Christ. Your testimony reveals this process of being "made new."

The word testimony comes from testify, a term often used in court when a witness shares what they know or saw. Similarly, when you share what Christ has done in your life, you are testifying to His presence and work. The focus is not on what we have done for salvation but on what Jesus has accomplished for us, in spite of our best efforts to achieve acceptance and favor from the Lord. Only Jesus saves.

### Step 1: Briefly Introduce Yourself

- **Who are you?** Provide your name and a bit of background information about yourself.
- **Contextualize Your Story:** Briefly explain where you are in life now (e.g., family, job, church involvement).

### Step 2: Share Your Life Before Christ (Acts 26:3-5)

- **Background and Lifestyle:** Describe your life before you met Christ. What were your beliefs, attitudes, and actions?
- **Example from Paul:** Paul shared his background as a devout Jew and his zeal in persecuting Christians.

### Step 3: Share Your Encounter with Christ and Decision to Follow Christ: (Acts 26:13-15)

- **Describe the Moment:** Share the moment or process of your encounter with Christ. Share when you decided to admit your sin, believe in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for salvation and forgiveness, confess publicly that Jesus is Lord, and receive eternal life. (John 3:16-17; Romans 3:23-24, 6:23, 10:9-13)
- **Circumstances and Emotions:** Highlight the circumstances leading up to it and the emotions you experienced.
- **Example from Paul:** Paul recounted his dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

### Step 4: Share Your Transformation After Accepting Jesus (Acts 26:16-18)

- **Changes in Your Life:** Discuss the changes in your life after your encounter and salvation with Christ.
- **New Beliefs, Attitudes, and Actions:** Explain how your beliefs, attitudes, and actions have changed.
- **Example from Paul:** Paul described how he was appointed by Jesus to spread the gospel and how his life mission changed.

### Step 5: Share Your Ongoing Journey & Mission (Acts 26:19-20)

- **Daily Relationship with Christ:** Talk about your ongoing relationship with Christ and how it impacts your daily life.
- **Challenges and Faith:** Mention any challenges you face and how your faith helps you overcome them.
- **Example from Paul:** Paul spoke about his mission to the Gentiles and the continuous work of spreading the gospel (also seen in Galatians 2:7-8).

### Step 6: Invitation & Conclusion (Acts 26:25-29)

- **Encourage Reflection:** Encourage others to consider their own relationship with Christ.
- **Personal Invitation:** Provide a personal invitation to explore faith or make a decision for Christ. Share how they can take the first step by inviting Jesus into their life realizing their need for salvation.
- **Conclusion:** Remember, your testimony is a unique story of how Christ has worked in your life. Share it with sincerity and openness, trusting God will use it to touch the hearts of others.
- **Example from Paul:** When Paul was on trial before King Agrippa, he used his testimony to also invite Agrippa to believe in Jesus. Like Paul, your testimony can also serve as an invitation for others to explore and embrace faith.

