

Introduction: The Power of Story

- The greatest communicator in the world used _____, as His primary means of teaching.
 - Exhibit A: “Linda’s Story”

- **Why is YOUR story so important?**
 1. People are interested!

 2. People can relate to it!

 3. It’s not offensive or argumentative!

Question: So how do you tell it well?

How to share His love through your story:

Paul's story - Acts 26

• B.C. - Before Christ Acts 26:4 - 11

•  - Conversion Acts 26:12 - 18

• A.D. - After Christ Acts 26:19 - 23

Your story – today:

B.C. - What was your life like before Christ?

- External Issues
- Internal Issues
- Realization of Your Need

✝ - How did you come to know Christ personally?

- What caused you to consider Christ as a solution to your needs?
- What motivated you to finally trust Christ?
- Be specific about where and how you actually put your faith in Christ.
- Key Verse:

A.D. - How did your life change after trusting Christ?

- External Issues
- Internal Issues
- Ongoing Struggles

Tips for preparing / sharing your testimony:

1. **Develop a theme:** The central issue in your life that shows the _____ in your spiritual outlook before Christ and after.
2. **Outline:** Keep it _____ and _____.
3. **Conclusion:** End with a question or statement that requires a _____.
4. **Scripture:** Think of the one verse that opened your eyes and share how it _____ you.
5. **Length:** Be _____ and to the point.
6. **Attitude:** Share, don't _____!
7. **Sensitivity:** Focus on the other person and share aspects of your life that relate to their _____ and _____.
8. **Focus:** Make Jesus the _____ of your story.

Discussion Questions / Homework:

1. Why is knowing how to share your story so important?
2. What did you learn that was most helpful in sharing your faith story with someone else?
3. How might God use your taking the time to prepare an outline of your story to share with others?
4. What specifically will you do to prepare to tell others how Jesus has changed your life? When? Who will help you keep this commitment?
5. Write out a brief outline of your faith story that could be shared in 3-5 minutes.

Reference: *Becoming a Courageous Christian* by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg