



What's Your Story?

Focus We are to share our testimony (the story of our faith) so that others may meet Jesus.

Open What is your favorite season of the year? Why?

Read After His death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers and told them, “*you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8, TNIV). Jesus has given us the job of sharing the gospel with others.

How do we do this? By telling our story. If we were to witness a crime, we would give a testimony in court of what we saw and heard. Being a witness for Jesus simply means that we are to tell others what we’ve seen and heard about Him—to share the story of our personal experience with Jesus. It’s not *our* job to “get people saved”—the Bible says that it’s *God* who draws people unto Himself. It’s our responsibility to share in His work by allowing Him to plant a seed in others’ heart through our personal story.

Talk

1. When you think of “witnessing” for Jesus, what thoughts or feelings immediately come to mind?

2. What are the key differences between sharing your story and “Bible-bashing” or “proselytizing”? Why is sharing your story a more effective way to share Christ than a more “preachy” approach?
3. Have you ever felt that your story wasn’t interesting or dramatic enough to make an impact on someone else? Why? What is the truth?
4. Have you ever shared your story with someone? How did you do it? What was the response?

Live

1. Have a few people briefly share their story with the group. (If your group is large, break into smaller groups of 3 or 4.) You might tell about how you gave your heart to the Lord or about a time when you helped to encourage an unbeliever to turn towards the Lord.
2. Write down the names of 1 or 2 people with whom you’d like to share your story over the coming weeks.
3. In Acts 1:8, Jesus told us that we would receive power from the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses. In pairs, ask the Lord to fill you with a greater measure of the Holy Spirit that you might receive power and boldness to be His witnesses to the people whose names you wrote down.

Pray

Thank Jesus for the gift of salvation. Ask Him to empower you through the Holy Spirit to be bold for Him and to be sensitive to the work He is doing in others. Ask Him to show you the opportunities that you already have to be a witness for Him by telling your story.

If you haven’t yet surrendered your life to Jesus and would like to invite Him to be your Lord, ask a partner or your group leader to pray with you.