



WHAT IF?
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Sharing with Others — We should prayerfully and intentionally share the story of our salvation and the story of the Gospel with others.

Sharing your salvation story with others

Sharing involves talking with people about Jesus...

A believer's salvation testimony is the most effective way of transitioning conversations, with those they know, to the gospel. There are three parts to a personal testimony.

Use one of the two following salvation testimony examples to write out your testimony, memorize it and then, prayerfully, use it to steer conversations toward spiritual things.

Once you have memorized your testimony then you can use the following statement and question as a transition to your personal testimony. "I believe you know that I go to church and that I have a strong faith in God. But I want you to know that I haven't always believed in Him like I do now. As your friend, may I briefly share with you how I came to personally trust in Him?" If they give permission then share your testimony.

Salvation Testimony

There are three basic parts:

1. *My life before Christ* » Share your primary issue if you had one (fear, emptiness, insecurity, etc.). If you were saved as a young child (<10 years of age) then the primary issue may not apply to you.
2. *How I came to trust Christ as Lord and Savior*
3. *My life after Christ* » Share how He dealt with your primary issue and what other benefits you have experienced because of your conversion.

My life before Christ » Briefly describe yourself and your life prior to knowing Christ. Mention the primary issue that bothered you during this time. Many people can relate to feelings or experiences of loneliness, emptiness, fear, guilt, lack of purpose in life, etc. Be as specific as possible so that the person you are talking to can relate to you.

Conversion experience » Tell the story of how you came to trust Christ as your Lord and Savior. Do not use "churchy" words but do briefly insert the gospel message into this part.

Recent benefits of conversion » Share some statements about God's goodness to you (peace of mind, joy, purpose, whatever was lacking in your life in your pre-conversion experience). Include the assurance transition, "And now I know for certain that I am going to Heaven when I die."



Sample Testimonies

Saved as a Teenager or Adult

I grew up as an average young person who had a tremendous love for athletics, especially basketball. I played on teams every chance I could get. I was a good student and had lots of friends and yet something was missing in my life. I felt empty. All during my adolescent years I went to church because I was made to go. Yet church made no difference in my life, I didn't even like it. One summer a group of people from our church went on a retreat to North Carolina.

I did not want to go but they talked me into it. While I was at the retreat, someone spoke from the Bible and it really made sense to me. They stressed that God loved me and desired to have a personal relationship with me, but because of my sins I was separated from God and His love. That is why Jesus came to earth to die on the cross, to take away my sin. I asked God to forgive my sin that day and my life has never been the same.

Now, many years later, my life is no longer empty but it is filled with God's favor and peace. I greatly enjoy God's blessings and want others to know how much He loves them. I truly am excited about what life has to offer through God and the best thing is that I know beyond a shadow of doubt that I will go to Heaven when I die. Has anything like this ever happened to you?

Saved as a Young Child under Ten Years of Age

I grew up as an average kid in a home in central Florida. I enjoyed life, school, and my friends and everything was going along pretty well. My parents were good parents who loved my younger siblings and me very much. My mom was a church-goer, so my siblings and I attended church with her. My dad wanted us to have a good education, so my parents sacrificed to send us to private school. It was in a weekly chapel service that I heard about God's love for me and His plan for my life. I understood that Jesus died on the cross to forgive my sins and bring me into a relationship with God. I asked God to forgive my sin that day and come into my life.

After that decision I faithfully attended church, but unfortunately, I failed to fully understand the significance of what God had done in my life. Instead, I focused on meeting the perceived expectations of others. It wasn't until years later when my husband and I moved away from the familiarity and security of my hometown that I realized that God doesn't want me to obey religious rules, but that He wants me to experience the daily joy of a personal relationship with Him. Now, my life is filled with God's favor and peace. I greatly enjoy God's blessings and want others to know how much He loves them. I truly am excited about what life has to offer through God and the best thing is that I know beyond a shadow of doubt that I will go to Heaven when I die. Has anything like this ever happened to you?

Stress that every attendee should write out their salvation testimony and learn to share it in two-three minutes. Using the examples above, take some time to write the three basic parts of your salvation testimony.