

PREPARE TO SHARE



PUT
YOUR
FAITH
INTO
WORDS

THEN
DO IT!

Jesus Christ called you to a new life (Galatians 2:20), clothed you with Himself (Galatians 3:26-27), commissioned you with a purpose (Matthew 28:19), and empowered you to fulfill that purpose (Acts 1:8) — to follow Him as His disciple and to live for Him as a disciplemaker (leading others to Him).

You are in partnership with the Holy Spirit who is at work in you and in the world. He helps you fulfill your purpose of being a disciplemaker as you share the gospel message and your own faith story.



Pray and Love


Evangelism is not about you involving Him in your outreach efforts. It is He involving you in His. Only the Holy Spirit can open the eyes of unbelievers to the truth of the gospel...It is the job of believers to communicate the gospel. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to convert the heart. (David Souther, EvanTell)

1. **Ask Jesus** to help you to identify the nonbelievers or unchurched women in your life. Consider those whom you frequently see or where you are presently connected. Write 1 or 2 names below:



Some we think are nonbelievers may be believers who have never been disciplined so their lives look like those of nonbelievers.

2. **Pray for each one** whenever you think about or see her. Example: "Father, please send the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of _____ to draw her to Jesus so she will trust in Him." 
3. **Ask Jesus** to give you His love and compassion for her and to help you understand what she is feeling and needing from Him. Step into her life to display Jesus' love and compassion to her. Example: "Lord, compel me to love her well so that I can't wait to be able to spend time getting to know her." 
4. **Commit** to make the most of any connection you have to build a relationship with her. Think of when & how you might get together with her.

5. **Trust in Jesus** to watch where the Spirit might use you in her life while you **live dependently** on His power by faith to introduce her to Jesus through your relationship with her. 



Snap a pic of this page to keep with you as a reminder.

Shape Your 3-Word Faith Story

Your story is Jesus' story in your life. Only you know it and can share it. Someone might reject the gospel facts, but it is very hard to argue with your experience of the gospel.

SHAPE YOUR FAITH STORY USING THREE WORDS!*

Choose any three words to represent your life before trusting in Jesus, how you came to trust in Him, and your life as a believer ever since.

1. Choose the first word to describe your life, feelings, situation, or thoughts before trusting in Christ. Examples: angry, independent, manipulative, miserable, hopeless, empty, addicted, me-centered, restless, striving, confused, insecure, worried, childlike.

WORD #1

2. Choose the second word to describe how you came to trust in Christ. Examples: creation, studied, concert, grew, Bible, friend, trouble, observation, evangelist, spouse, loved, teacher, parent.

WORD #2

3. Choose the third word to describe your life, feelings, situation, or thoughts since trusting in Christ. Examples: *peaceful, loving, trusting, freedom, servant, hopeful, compassionate, confident.*

WORD #3

Using your three words, create 2-3 sentences for each word—just a brief explanation of how each word relates to your story. See the example at right using *me-centered*, *evangelist*, and *trusting*.

[illegible]

EXAMPLE:

“Before coming to faith in Jesus Christ, I was **ME-CENTERED** and thought I was in control of my life. If I wanted something to happen (specifically, get a boyfriend!), I had to make it happen!

My sisters came to faith before I did, and through them I saw a lack in my own life. When I heard an **EVANGELIST** on TV present the gospel, I realized what the lack was. It was a Person, Jesus Christ, and I prayed and asked Him to forgive my sins.

Now, I am most blessed in relinquishing control to Him, **TRUSTING** Him with all my heart, leaning not on my own understanding, acknowledging Him in all my ways and allowing Him to straighten my paths.

**Adapted from "Create Your Own 3 Word Testimony" at evantell.org.*



Speak aloud what you wrote.



Snap a pic of this page to keep with you for more practicing.



Ask the Spirit to give you boldness and opportunity to share this with someone soon.

To prepare a longer version of your faith story, see page 5.



Prepare Conversation Transitions

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:4-6)

Prepare and practice some transitions from common topics of casual conversation with another woman that could lead into sharing some part of your story. Consider how you might identify with her and what God has done in your life to make the difference. How would you finish these sample statements?

1. CORRUPTION, EVIL AND SIN – “Though I am not guilty of that particular sin, I am just as guilty of...”

2. COMMUNITY – “I believe we are created by God to live in real community, first of all with Him. And I have experienced this...”

3. FAMILY – “I am so glad that God cares even more about my family than I do. What would I do without Him helping me to...”

4. SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENED — “God has been so kind to you in that. I saw His kindness to me when...”

5. PAIN AND SUFFERING — “Yes. I understand how that really hurts...”

6. High Expectations — “I am so glad God does not expect perfection from me. What a relief it is to know how He loves me just as I am...”

7. ANGER AT SOMEONE — “I love the way God is changing me from the inside out. Not too long ago, I would have been so upset by that, but...”

8. ANOTHER TOPIC —



Speak aloud what you wrote.



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Know the Gospel Facts

Choose one to practice.

EVANTELL.ORG

Has anyone ever explained to you how you can know you are going to heaven? May I? (This is similar to the Romans Road version.)

1. The Bible contains both bad news and good news. The bad news is something about you and me, and the good news is something about God. Let me share the bad news first.
 - Bad News #1 — We are all sinners. *Romans 3:23*
 - Bad News #2 — The penalty for sin is death. *Romans 6:23*
2. Since there was no way you could go to God, the Bible says that God decided to come to you. Here is the good news...
 - Good News #1 — Christ died for you. *Romans 5:8*
 - Good News #2 — You can be saved through faith in Christ. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Is anything keeping you from trusting Christ right now? Would you like to pray now and tell God you will trust His Son as your Savior?

BRIDGE TO LIFE

Has anyone ever explained to you how you can know you are going to heaven? May I?

1. The Bible teaches that God loves all humans and wants them to know him. *John 3:16*
2. But humans have sinned against God and are separated from God and his love. *Draw a chasm.* This separation leads only to death and judgment. *Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:2*
3. But there is a solution. *Draw bridge.* Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins (the bridge between humanity and God). *1 Timothy 2:5-6a; Romans 5:8*
4. Only those who personally receive Jesus Christ into their lives, trusting him to forgive their sins, can cross this bridge. Everyone must decide individually whether to receive Christ. *John 5:24; Romans 10:13*

Is anything keeping you from trusting Christ right now? Would you like to pray now and tell God you will trust His Son as your Savior?

USING JOHN 3:16

Has anyone introduced you to Jesus so you could know Him? May I? *Read John 3:16.* This tells of...

1. **God's Love:** *"For God so loves you __ (name) __..."* God loves you and created you to enjoy a relationship with Him. But, sin prevents you from experiencing this relationship. You cannot be good enough on your own to overcome this sin barrier and its penalty of death. God's love led to...
2. **God's Gift:** *"God gave His one and only Son"* Jesus to live as one of us then to take our penalty for sin on Himself when He died on the cross. Our sins could now be forgiven. He was then raised from the dead to be alive again and to give us His life. Because the price for our sin has been paid, the way to God is clear and simple through...
3. **God's Offer:** *"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life ..."* That means to trust in God's loving plan, accept what Jesus did on the cross for you, admit your sin and desire a relationship with Him. To perish means to die separated from God and His love for you. Eternal life means you can enjoy a forever-family relationship with God now and after your life on earth ends.

When offered a gift you want, you take it and say thank you. It's forever yours. Is anything keeping you from trusting in Jesus right now? Would you like to pray now and tell God you are accepting His love gift of salvation in Jesus?



Speak aloud one of these ways to share the gospel message.



Snap a pic of this page to keep with you for more practicing.



Ask the Spirit to give you boldness and opportunity to share this with someone soon.

Prepare Your 5-Minute Faith Story

Two options are given for writing your story. If you became a Christian as a teen or adult so that you remember what life was like before knowing Him, use Option 1. If you became a Christian as a child and stayed faithful to Him through the years, choosing to become His disciple as a teen or adult, use Option 2. If you trusted Christ as a child, then drifted far away only to come back later in life, use Option 1 focusing on what caused you to come back to Him and choose to be His disciple now.

OPTION 1: SPECIFIC TURNING POINT LEADING TO SALVATION

BEFORE YOU TRUSTED IN CHRIST

Although the tendency is to spend most of the time on your “before Christ” experience, only give enough information so the women know why you needed Christ in your life. Tell them what you needed so that some may identify with you.

- Identify what your life was like. What were your attitudes, needs, and/or problems? From what did you get your security or happiness? How did those areas begin to disappoint you? To what source did you look for security, peace of mind, or happiness? In what ways were your activities unsatisfying?

- Find 2-3 words to describe what only Christ could fill or do in your life (e.g. loneliness, feelings of insignificance, anger, rejection).

- Briefly share a personal example that captures the needs and attitudes from this time of your life as identified above.

How you came to know Christ (point of salvation)

Share when and how you first heard the gospel and/or were exposed to Christianity. What brought you to the place of being willing to listen? Who influenced you? How and when did you decide to follow Jesus? Describe how you felt, what truths you heard, what you thought about them, how you felt after you made the decision. Give the gospel in this section. Use 1 or 2 relevant scripture verses.

Your life after knowing Jesus

- What conditions in your life before Christ has now been satisfied by a relationship with Him? What does it look like in your life to have a relationship with Christ? How long did it take before you noticed changes? What are your blessings? Where do you struggle? How do you depend on Him through those struggles? What difference does it make to have Jesus in your life make during those times? Emphasize what you have learned about God's grace to you.
- Briefly share a personal illustration that shows the wonderful difference that Christ has made in your life.

Write your five-minute faith story.

As you tell your story, what is the one big idea you want everyone to walk away remembering? This is your **main idea**—kind of like a theme. Some examples are: “Jesus satisfied my loneliness” or “To live with purpose is knowing Christ in my life.” Think about those comments a woman might make that gives you an opening to tell this part of your story.

Whether you like to be spontaneous or need everything written down, it helps to script what you will say. It forces you to think through what you will say to maintain your main idea. It helps you to manage your allowed time.

Write it as you would speak it—shorter sentences, peppy words that are clear and simple. Use every day terminology. For example, instead of saying “my testimony,” say “the story of my life.” See “Screen Your Language” at the end of this section for other alternatives. Include specific illustrations that give them snapshots of your life, not only general descriptions of your life events. Practice telling your story several times. Make eye contact with the listener to draw her into your story.

Write out your five-minute faith story. Remember only spend 30% of the time on your “before,” just enough to have them identify with your need at that time. Spend another 30% on the decision time, and spend the rest of the time on what knowing Christ has done for you. **Always end by inviting them to join your adventure by trusting in Christ as you did.**

OPTION 2: BELIEVER TO CHRIST-FOLLOWER (DISCIPLE)

Those who trusted Christ as children often feel they "have nothing to tell" because they don't have a dramatic story. Yet, your story is the one every parent wants for their children! In the case of childhood believers, there occurs a later, mature decision to follow Christ as His disciple where more obvious life changes occurred. If you are in this category, therefore, focus on that later turning point in telling your story.

Although the tendency is to spend most of the time on your "before" experience, only give enough information so the women know why you needed Christ in your life. You want them to be able to identify with you.

Before you became Jesus' disciple

- Identify what your life was like as a young Christian or living as just a believer not a disciple. Share when and how you first heard the gospel and/or were exposed to Christianity. What were your attitudes, needs, and/or problems? From what did you get your security or happiness?
- Briefly share a personal example that captures the needs and attitudes from this time of your life as identified above.

What led you to become Jesus' disciple?

Share what brought you to the place of being willing to listen or of wanting to be more than just a believer. Who influenced you? How and when did you decide to follow Jesus? Describe how you felt, what truths you heard, what you thought about them, how you felt after you made the decision. Give the gospel in this section. Use 1 or 2 relevant scripture verses. Emphasize what you have learned about God's grace to you.

Your life after becoming Jesus' disciple

- What conditions before this time has now been satisfied by a deeper relationship with Him? How long did it take before you noticed changes? What does it look like in your life to have this closer relationship with Christ? What are your blessings? Where do you struggle? How do you depend on Him through those struggles? What difference does it make to have Jesus in your life during those times? What remarkable thing has Jesus done in your life (or in the last three years)?
- Briefly share a personal illustration that shows the wonderful difference that following Christ has made in your life.

Write your five-minute faith story.

As you tell your story, what is the one big idea you want everyone to walk away remembering? This is your **main idea**—kind of like a theme. “Jesus satisfied my loneliness” or “To live is knowing Christ in my life.”

Whether you like to be spontaneous or need everything written down, it helps to script what you will say. It forces you to think through what you will say to maintain your main idea. It helps you to manage your allowed time.

Write it as you would speak it—shorter sentences, peppy words that are clear and simple. Use every day terminology. For example, instead of saying “my testimony,” say “the story of my life.” See “Screen Your Language” on page 9 for other alternatives. Include specific illustrations that give them snapshots of your life, not only general descriptions of your life events. Practice telling your story several times. Make eye contact with the listener to draw her into your story.

Write out your five-minute faith story. Remember only spend 30% of the time on your “before,” just enough to have them identify with your need at that time. Spend another 30% on the decision time, and spend the rest of the time on what knowing Christ has done for you. **Always end by inviting them to join your adventure of trusting in Christ as you did!**

Screen Your Language

Adapted from *Stonecroft Ministries Speaker Workshop*

UNLEARNING THE LINGO

Many of the words we use to share our faith may be too churchy or meaningless to the people we are attempting to reach. If you were a nonbeliever, which words in this quote would you have difficulty understanding?

I heard the plan of salvation and was told that I needed to be saved. So I went forward to be born again. The Lord spoke to me and then opened the door of my heart to show me God's plan for my life. I learned to stand on God's word and began to walk with the Lord. I turned away from worldly things, and it has been such a blessing.

Instead of using churchy words or phrases, here are some alternatives.

Cliché	Alternative
Scripture or Bible verse	A place in the Bible where it says...
Born again, converted	Changed, transformed (with explanation)
Christian	Follower of Christ
Confess	Admit, agree with God
Found the Lord, got saved	Accept Christ, make a decision to follow Christ
Grace	God's totally unearned forgiveness
Gospel	God loves us and sent His Son so that we can find forgiveness and new life through Him
Into my heart	Gave His life to me
Know	Believe, trust, be certain
The Lord	God, Creator, Jesus
The Holy Spirit	God's Spirit, the Spirit of God
Praise	Thanking God for His greatness
Pray	Talk with God, ask God
Repent	To be sorry about wrongs and to turn from them to do right
Salvation, saved	Forgiven of wrongs and given eternal life
Savior	Jesus, God's Son, who forgave my wrongs and gave me eternal life
Sin, sinner	Acting against God's will and offending God's character; the wrong things that we do
Testimony	Telling my story
Witness	Tell, show

In most cases, avoid using theological words such as *justification* or the *sovereignty of God* unless you explain them well. And avoid saying "The Lord told me or spoke to me," which sets up expectation of audible messages from God.

If you are praying with nonbelievers, even with believers, be careful how often you address God by name in prayer. Prayer is simply talking to God. In normal speech, you would not continually repeat someone's name, but many Christians think it necessary to mention God's name after every few words or so. This is disconcerting to non-Christians. Write out your prayer if this is a temptation for you. Above all, be real and be normal.

AVOID INAPPROPRIATE INFORMATION.

- Use discretion in naming religions, churches, denominations, or cults.
- Avoid controversial issues such as doctrinal, political and social issues.
- Avoid derogatory remarks relating to any person, place, group, or issue.
- Stay away from promoting any project, campaign, business, cause, or financial need.
- Consider whether referring to any person, especially family members, could cause embarrassment or conflict. Ask permission before doing so.