

Section 3 - Evangelism

Section Overview

The main objective of this section is to give the team members the tools and resources necessary for them to write their testimony and be comfortable sharing it with others.

Students will have many opportunities to share their testimony. Therefore, we would like everybody to be familiar with their testimony before they get here. Also, sharing their testimonies can be a great tool in raising the funds to support their trip. This next section has all the info needed to properly construct their testimony.

The key to this is practice. We highly suggest that each member start by giving their testimony during a team meeting, when raising funds, during commissioning service, or any other time that would be a stretch for them. This will help to prepare them for the trip.

Be a Light in Darkness

Matthew- 5;14-16 You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Sometimes the hardest part of giving your testimony is overcoming the fear that is within us. It can be easier to stay within our "zone" that is cozy and comfortable, where we don't have to be stretch or questioned. We are afraid about what to say or what to do, what others may think or saying the wrong thing. But, ***if we always stay within our comfort zone, are we really giving God a chance to make himself known?*** God always waits for us to take the first step. Once we take the first step, the step of faith, **THEN** we are giving God an opportunity to show up...which he always does! But we have to be willing to take the first step and get out of our comfort zone!!!



Think about times in the past where you stepped out of your comfort zone and Christ totally showed up.

Testimony Preparation

Learning the Basics

What is a testimony?

It is a short, *non-preachy*, personal summary of what Christ has done in your life. In your testimony you will need to focus on: your life before your relationship with Christ, how you ended up giving your life to Christ and the difference His relationship has made in your life.

Why is my testimony important?

1 Peter 3:15 says: “...always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness and respect**...” In order for us to share the gospel with others, we must have a clear understanding of what Christ has done in our lives. Then we can use our experiences to tell others how important Christ is in our life.

Another reason our testimonies are important is found in Revelation 12:11. Apostle John says “They (believers) overcame him (Satan), by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...” It is by the work of Christ and word of our testimony that we’re able to overcome the power of sin.

By knowing what you believe in and why will help you effectively minister to other people. If Jesus isn’t the center of your life, why would you expect others to accept Him? The best way to share your faith is through your personal experiences with Christ. **Some people may ignore or reject Scripture, but it is hard for them to deny what has happened in your life.**

How long should my testimony be?

There is no time limit when giving your testimony. Most think they have to preach a 20 minute sermon, but we tend to forget that little “testimonies” we might say to others in passing about something God did for us are also testimonies. **You need to be comfortable giving a short version (30 seconds- 1 minute) and a longer version (5-10 minutes) of your testimony.** Your chance to share may come when you least expect it and you should be ready at any time.

Do I Have a Testimony?

Everyone has a testimony!!!! Just because you grew up in a Christian home, or didn’t experience a drastic “before I was saved” experience, doesn’t mean you don’t have a testimony. **OUT OF YOUR TEST WILL COME YOUR TESTIMONY!** You can’t say you’ve never struggled or been tested before... can you?

If you’re struggling with this, use these questions to help give you a jumpstart when writing your testimony:

Post Conversion Experience: After you were saved

3. How was your life different after you decided to follow Jesus? What changes took place in your life and heart?

Ex. "After I gave my life to Christ, I noticed...."
"I still struggle with....., but I know that....."

Now, since you've created your (longer testimony- 5 to 10 minutes), work on creating a shorter testimony (30 seconds-1 minute).

The Do's & Don'ts

Do's

- Ask God for help when preparing and sharing your testimony
- Write your testimony out & have others proof & edit it.
- **Remember that your testimony is not about you, but what Christ did in you.**
- Include any scripture references that have encouraged you
- Practice giving your testimony, try videotaping or recording it.
- Be realistic, don't exaggerate
- Give specific examples

Don'ts

- Don't be afraid to ask others for help, or get other people's opinions.
- When speaking, don't jump all over in your testimony- make sure others will be able to follow you- it's good to come up with an outline, to keep this from happening.
- Avoid "Christianese" - terms, *like saved, convicted, born-again, and glorious, etc* and Don't use vague terms like changed, peaceful etc.
- Don't make comments that negatively reflect on other people or churches.
- Don't mention church denominations.
- Don't use vague terms like "joyful, changed, peace

Practice Makes Perfect

Even though the first couple times giving your testimony may be intimidating, practice makes perfect! Use the opportunities given during fundraising, and speaking at your church!

Remember the word of Apostle Paul to his good friend Timothy. **“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about the Lord...”** In other words, don’t be afraid, and don’t be ashamed – just practice!!!

Keeping it Alive

Make sure you your team has plenty of time to practice and prepare their testimonies. Here are a couple more ideas:

- Have a testimony night, where any members from your church or youth group or a group of friends get together, and share testimonies about what God is doing in their lives or how they came to know Christ. It is a great time of encouragement and a good way to learn more about one another.
- At the beginning of a youth service or Sunday school, allow time for a people to give brief testimonies about something cool that God has done for them this past week.
- “Quiz” one another by randomly having “popcorn testimonies.” Anytime, anywhere.

