

Guidelines for Preparing YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I. Before Receiving Christ

- A. Give 1 or 2 specific examples of your lifestyle, attitudes, etc.
- B. You could relate your church involvement and your attitudes, etc., but don't mention denomination.
- C. Don't brag about sin.

II. How You Received Christ (be very specific)

- A. During this part you are sharing the gospel, so a person will know how to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
 - 1. Where or from whom did you first hear that you could have a personal relationship with Christ?
 - 2. What was your reaction to this claim?
 - 3. Why did you invite Christ into your life?
 - 4. How did you go about asking Christ in?
 - 5. Be sure to avoid Christian lingo (sanctified, justified, redeemed, washed in the blood of the lamb, bought by the blood).
 - 6. If you use the words "saved" or "born again" be sure to explain.

III. After Receiving Christ

- A. What changes have you noticed since receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? Attitudes concerning school? Parents? Social life? Direction and purpose in life?
- B. Have the changes been immediate or gradual?
- C. Give specific examples (i.e. grades, attitudes) of how your life has changed since receiving Christ. (You might relate it to I.A. above.)
- D. What problems or struggles have you had since becoming a Christian (be real)? Do you handle these problems or struggles any differently now?
- E. What are the benefits of having a personal relationship with Christ?

This type of format is an effective way to develop a 3-5 minute testimony. During your testimony, include 1 or 2 scripture verses that are meaningful to you. It is helpful to have an outline of your testimony to keep you on track and help you remember key things you want to share. Remember you are sharing a personal testimony, not preaching. Relax and rely on the Holy Spirit to lead you. You should use words like "I", "me" or "my", not "you".

It is a good idea to build your testimony around a theme that is characteristic of your experience and is of general interests to non-Christians.

Any subject matter can be presented more effectively with careful organization. A carefully prepared testimony, given in the power of the Holy Spirit, can be of immediate and effective use in nearly every witnessing situation. It should be our desire to present Jesus Christ in such a clear and attractive, yet simple way, that those who hear want to know Him, and will also know how to know Him personally.

TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

1. a) **Before** I received Christ, I lived and thought this way:

b) What circumstances led up to receiving Christ (committing your life to Christ).

2. When/How I received Christ (what you prayed to God, etc). Use 2-3 key verses.

3. **After** I received Christ, these changes took place (attitude, actions, relationships):