

The Power in Your Personal Testimony

Set the Stage

- The last command that Jesus gave to the church was to *“go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”*
- This is vital and important. We must give ourselves intentionally to sharing the Gospel with other people.
- Why do we shy away from sharing the Gospel with others? What keeps us from fulfilling Jesus' last command?*
- Apathy, lack of commitment to Jesus
- Fear, not knowing how or what to say.
- There are many ways that you can share the Gospel with people.
- What are some ways?*
 - Build relationships, be intentional, Bible study
 - Engage people in conversation and ask people spiritual discovery questions.
- One of the easiest and most powerful ways is through your personal testimony.
 - It relates to people, its personal, and you know it.
- Everyone has a story. **It gives you the opportunity to ask for theirs and then share yours.**
 - Listening to their story will reveal where they are at.
- Don't use this as a way to just share all about you. It is a means to share the Gospel and get their story. **The emphasis is on Jesus and on the other person.**
- Paul used the method of sharing his personal testimony twice in scripture. Acts 22 and 26 recount what happened in Acts 9
 - If I say “Green leather couch” how many of you know what I mean?*

Read Acts 26:1-28

Take it to the Next Level

The first part of your personal testimony is...

1. Who you were before Jesus (4-5, 8-11)

- You were a sinner with a broken relationship with God.
- No purpose, meaning, value.
- Why is it important to tell who you were before Jesus?*
- Each time he shared his testimony it was different. Less or more detail.
- Listen to the Holy Spirit when you are sharing. It doesn't always need to be the whole story.
- Some of you think your personal testimony is not powerful because God did not deliver you from a terrible lifestyle.
- Then you do not understand the reality of who you are
- You are still a sinner and you need to meditate through that. (Rom. 3:23)

The second part of your personal testimony is...

2. How you came to Jesus (12-15)

- Share who Jesus is and why you need Him.
- Share what he did for them on the cross.
- How you made a decision to call or believe on him.**
- Commit your life to follow him.
- Acts 22:16 - Ananias tells Paul to "call on the name of the Lord" and "be baptized."
- Listen closely to the other person's story. This is where you will find out exactly where they are.
- Has there been a decision?
- What are they trusting in to save them?
- You can ask, "So if you died today where would you go?"

-Why is it so important to know if they have made a decision to call or believe on Jesus?

-Mt. 7:21-23

The third part of your personal testimony is...

3. What Jesus has done in your life since (16-20, 28)

-Our story doesn't end there. It is really just the beginning.

-Tell them what he has done and is doing in your life.

-This is where you can inspire them and encourage them to call on Jesus Christ.

-Why should they call on Jesus

-What are some things that you can share?

Take Your Next Step

(This is a great opportunity to have students share their testimonies or place students in small groups to share. Lost students may realize they do not have a testimony. This will allow you to discover where they are at and have the opportunity to lead them to the Lord.)

-Write out your personal testimony.

-Take the time to think through your story and write out each of the stages. Become very familiar with it.

-Ask someone what their story is this week.

-Listen closely to hear where they are at.

-Share your personal testimony with someone this week.

-Find a close friend to share it with to get comfortable. Then, find opportunities to share it with other people for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.

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