

Your Story

1. R_____ the difference between a Testimony and Your Salvation Story

- A **Testimony** is when you tell others about something that God has done for you
 - Example of Healing
 - Example of Provision
 - Example of Deliverance
 - Example of Freedom (relational/emotional)

- Your **Salvation Story** is how you became a Christian!
 - 3 Parts to Your Salvation Story
 1. **BEFORE:** What was your life like before you surrendered to Christ?
 - What were you searching for before coming to know Christ?
 - What was the key problem, emotion, situation or attitude you were dealing with?
 - What motivated you? What were your actions? How did you try to satisfy your inner needs?
(Examples of inner needs are loneliness, fear of death, insecurity. Possible ways to fill those needs include work, money, drugs, relationships, sports, sex.)

 2. **HOW:** How were you changed?
 - Simply tells the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your searching.
 - What were the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Christ?
 - Where were you?
 - What was happening at the time?
 - What people or problems influenced your decision?

 3. **NOW:** What is your life like now?
 - How has your life in Christ made a difference?
 - What does an intimate relationship with God feel like to you?
 - How have your thoughts, attitudes, and emotions changed?

- How has your perspective on life changed?

2. R_____ the Power of Your Story

- Every Salvation Story is Powerful!
 - Nothing is more powerful than the story of a compelling Eyewitness
 - EX. Blind man: I once was blind but now I see (John 9:25)
 - Every Salvation Story is Miraculous!
 - It is literally raising someone from the dead!
 - **And you were dead in your trespasses and sins**, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 **But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us**, 5 **even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
 - You do not need to have a "Gory Story" in order for God to get the glory!
 - Many people think that their Salvation Story isn't powerful because they did not commit horrific sins
 - They think that because they were not really bad before they were saved their Salvation Story is weak
- YOU DON'T NEED TO SIN GREATLY TO MAKE YOUR SALVATION STORY GREATER

Listen to what you are saying!

 - If that were the case then we should not have a children's ministry!!!

--We should encourage our children to go live as wild a life as they can first so that you will have a testimony to tell later!)
 - *Paul addresses this in Romans 6:1-15*
 - Should we sin more so that grace shall abound more? Not so!!
 - We do not need to live a "wretched" life to have a powerful testimony
 - We do not need to be **Really bad** to make God look good

- The reality is that we are all **Really bad** in God's eyes
 - We need to come to terms with how detestable all sin is to God
 - GENESIS 6 *The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*

- Reflect upon The depth of your own depravity
 - (Jeremiah 17:9) ***The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?***
 - God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every ***imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually***" (Gen 6:5)
 - The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Gen 8:21)

- Unless we truly believe we were rescued from the deepest darkest pit, we will never truly appreciate the marvelous light we are now in.

- You don't need to embellish your life of sin...instead emphasize your life with Him!
 - Many people spend too much time talking about their (BC Life) making it sound fun and exciting
 - Then they spend little time talking about their With Christ Life and how exciting that is!
 - This actually weakens your testimony instead of strengthening it!

- **The Gospel is powerful enough by itself!**
 - We don't have to wait for an experience that we think is novel-worthy.
 - This is the greatest story that has ever been told
 - You have been entrusted with it
 - We do not need to embellish it. Just tell it!

3 Kinds of Salvation Stories:

1. Those who have S _____ G _____

- Woman at the Well (John 4:39-42)
 - Tried to find fulfillment in the world
- 2. Those Who have been H_____ D_____
 - Blind Man (John 9)
 - Found Christ because they had a "Felt Need" they could not meet
- 3. Those Who Have F_____ S_____
 - EX. The Apostle Paul (WINNING AT THE WRONG THING)
ACTS 26
 - Quote: D.L. Moody — 'Our **greatest** fear should not be of **failure**, but of succeeding at something that doesn't really matter
 - Tried to earn God's love through religious works and self-righteousness
- **What's Your Story?**
Which type of Salvation Story do you resonate with the most?

3- Always Be R_____ to Share Your Salvation Story!

CONCLUSION

- You will see the Salvation Story Worksheet
 - Please download it and begin to work through it
- We encourage you to spend some time praying and reflecting first
- Look over your story and find a theme
- Practice sharing your story with others (co-workers, neighbors, family members)
- Have a short 5 minute (elevator version) and a long (everyday version)