

Handout #7 (two pages)

Talk About Your Story

Start With a Simple Three-Point Outline

A three-point approach is very effective in communicating your personal testimony. The outline focuses on before you trusted Christ, how you surrendered to Him, and the difference since you've been walking with Him.

Wow:

Simply tell what your life was 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*.)

How:

How were you converted? Simply tell the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your searching. Take time to identify 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?

Now:

How has your life in Christ made a difference? How has His forgiveness impacted you? How have your thoughts, attitudes, and emotions changed? Share how Christ is meeting your needs and what a relationship with Him means to you now.

Guidelines

- Stick to the point. Your conversion and new life in Christ should be the main points.
- Be specific. Include events, genuine feelings, and personal insights that clarify your main point. This makes your testimony tangible—something others can relate to.
- Be current. Tell what is happening in your life with God now, today.
- Be honest. Don't exaggerate or dramatize your life for effect. The simple truth of what God has done in your life is all the Holy Spirit needs to convict others of their sins and convince them of His love and grace.

Things to Avoid

- Avoid using "born again."** Instead, use *spiritual birth, spiritual renewal, to come alive spiritually, given a new life.*
- Avoid using "saved."** Instead, use *rescued, delivered from despair, found hope for life.*
- Avoid using "lost."** Instead, use *heading in the wrong direction, separated from God, had no hope.*
- Avoid using "gospel."** Instead, use *God's message to man, the good news about Christ's purpose on earth.*

