

Giving Your Personal Testimony

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.” 1 Peter 3:15

We all have many ways that God works in us every day, some big and some small. A testimony is a short story through which you explain one specific way that God has touched your life or changed your heart.

A personal testimony is SHORT. And there is a very specific method to do it.

You get **3 MINUTES**.

And those three minutes can be the most powerful part of the event for some kids, so make them count!

Some quick notes to keep in mind:

- **God is the star of your story.** Try to highlight this in the way your phrase things. For example “God showed me that...” instead of “I figured out.”
- **Less is more.** Try not to include too many details, just stick to one topic and make your narrow storyline more clear.
- **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will speak through you! He was the one who changed you, so he knows better what happened than you do anyways!

Here is the breakdown:

1st Minute: ***Explain what your life was like before the instance that you experienced God.***

- During this time, you can include your family background in the faith, obstacles to your faith as you were young, as well as any pertinent information that sets up why you needed God in the particular area of your life that you are sharing about.
 - Remember that the testimony is about God, not how horrible you were before he helped you. Avoid talking about sin in detail, use vague words to describe sin. Do not glorify the sin, nor should you give details about other people involved, as we do not want to gossip.
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2nd Minute: ***Explain the time/place/event that you experienced God in the specific way.***

- _ How did you get there? What were you doing? How did you hear/feel God? Was it through a friend or in the silence of your heart?
 - Be sure to briefly explain terms that younger teens may not understand, such as “Adoration,” “FNL,” “EFC,” “Camp,” “Steubenville Conferences,” “Core Team,” etc.
 - Be as detailed as you can, emphasizing God. Give concrete details about HOW God spoke to you in prayer, HOW you felt, etc. make it real for the audience listening to your story!
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3rd Minute: ***Explain how your life has changed since that event.***

- Give specific before/after comparisons, talk about what you did/do differently, and how you see things differently.
- Try to avoid this storyline: “My life was horrible, then Jesus came, and now my life is perfect!!” Be real, life doesn’t necessarily get easier, and it is never “perfect,” so it is ok to admit that you aren’t perfect yet, but simply talk about how God has transformed your life!
- Always end with an invitation for your audience. For example, “And so I want to invite you, that wherever you are at, open your heart to God tonight, because when I finally did, I realized that he was waiting for me my entire life.” Opening phrases you can use are “I invite you,” “I challenge you,” and “I encourage you.”

After you give your testimony in front of people, you leave the front and return to your seat or your other duties, always give glory to God through a prayer. The Glory Be is a simple yet beautiful way to remind ourselves that it is not about us, but all for His glory!!

Praise the Lord for He is good, His mercy endures forever!
- Psalm 107:1