

STORIES...WE'VE ALL GOT 'EM!

Below are some thoughts and questions to help you get started with sharing your story. Please know that this is just a guide; we want you to be authentic in sharing what Jesus has done in your life through Believers!

YOUR STORY HAS VALUE

1. It's unique! There isn't another one exactly like it.
2. It's personal and you're the authority on it.
3. People love to hear personal stories – they can relate to them and they leave a lasting impression.

THE FOUR PARTS OF YOUR STORY

1. What was your life like before coming to Believers?
 - o Were you far from Christ? Did you know Jesus?
 - o Were you new to the area? Looking for a church home?
2. How did you start coming to Believers and how has God used your Believers experience to speak to you?
 - o Were you invited by a friend? Through a Servant Evangelism Project? Did you just "stumble" upon it?
 - o Did you start your relationship with Jesus after coming to Believers?
 - o How have you grown in your faith – baptism, Bible Study, understanding of God's amazing love for you and plan for your life?
3. How has life changed since being at Believers?
 - o Have your priorities shifted? In what way?
 - o Are you an amazing Volunteer Team member??
 - o Are you a part of a BeGroup?
 - o Do you want others to know about what Jesus has done for them?
4. What excites you about being involved in the future of Believers? What do you hope Jesus will do in and through you in the next step on your journey with Him?

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR STORY

1. Pray and ask God to give you the right words.

2. Write it out on paper:
 - o Keep it short and to the point – about 4-6 minutes (i.e. 2-3 pages, double spaced).
 - o Be succinct – avoid excessive, unnecessary details.
 - o The more specific you are, the more dynamic it will be.
 - o Give concrete examples of the changes in your life.
 - o Use humor (naturally) - it reduces tension and relaxes the listener.

3. Be prepared:
 - o Read it aloud and edit it to make it conversational.

- Practice it until it feels and sounds natural.
- Speak casually and informally, in a matter-of-fact tone.
- Smile!
- A few things NOT to do:
 - Don't dramatize or embellish your story.
 - Don't share mystical experiences.
 - Don't talk down to people.
 - Don't sound "preachy."
 - Don't make negative remarks about other religions or people.