

session 3

Ways to Communicate the Gospel

THE THREE PARTS OF YOUR STORY

Part 1. My life before I became a Christian

What was your religious upbringing? How did you view God back then?

How were you “blind”?

How did you spend your time?

What did you struggle with?

What “god” did you worship? (e.g., money, fame, getting married)

Part 2. The process that led me to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior

What kick-started your spiritual journey?

What person or people were instrumental at this time of your life?

How and when did you receive Jesus Christ into your life? Be specific!

Part 3. My new life as a Christian

How do you view God now, as opposed to before?

What things do you still struggle with? How are those struggles different now that you have Jesus on your side?

What positive changes have happened?

What purpose and meaning have you discovered for your life?

What type of hope do you have for the future?

bullet points of your story

Jot down a list of bullet points of everything you'd love to share if a person was really interested. You can always give a 30-minute version of your story over lunch but don't start here. Wait until you get permission to give all of the details.

Part 1. My life before I became a Christian

Part 2. The process that led me to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior

Part 3. My new life as a Christian

write your story — 1-minute version

Write out a 1-minute version of your story, something you can share with your co-worker at the water cooler or with your neighbor while walking the dog. Think of this as a “teaser” movie trailer for a summer blockbuster — give enough info to get them interested to want more.

Part 1. My life before I became a Christian

Part 2. The process that led me to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior

Part 3. My new life as a Christian

write your story — 3-minute version

Write out a 3-minute version with a bit more detail that you can share with a friend or family member.

Part 1. My life before I became a Christian

Part 2. The process that led me to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior

Part 3. My new life as a Christian

write your story — 2-word version

Write out a 2-word version of your story. *That's right, just two words.* Go to **2wordstory.com** for ideas. The idea behind this website is that every Christian can boil their spiritual story down to two words, and actually use the same word for *before* and *after* Christ. Examples include:

Fearless? *Fearless!*

Worthy? *Worthy!*

Whole? *Whole!*

Loved? *Loved!*

Your 2-word story: _____

A Sample Story - 3-Minute Version

Part 1. My life before I became a Christian

I was born and raised going to church but God was never relevant to my life. So I quit church as I started attending Macomb Community College. During college I was an atheist but I started worshipping a new “god” — money. After graduating and getting a good job at GM making the big bucks, I soon realized that money didn’t fill the deepest longings of my soul and this started my spiritual search.

Part 2. The process that led me to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior

A friend invited me to ABC Community Church and it wasn’t anything like the church I grew up in. They had a band on stage — great musicians and vocalists. And the pastor gave a message that I thought about on Monday. After going there I realized you didn’t need to check your brain at the door to believe the Bible and become a Christian. I understood that Jesus Christ was real and he died on the cross for my sins. But I also understood that I needed to do more than *believe*; I needed to *receive* Jesus as my personal Savior. So that’s what I did. This was a process for me but by the summer of 2005 I knew I crossed the line of faith.

Part 3. My new life as a Christian

Since then I can’t begin to describe the changes in my life. I no longer worship “money” — I still have nice stuff but know that it’s better to give than to receive. That deep hole I felt in my soul couldn’t be filled by buying a new house or getting a new car. Only God could fill it. And he has. And I have a new perspective when bad things happen. To be honest, life as a Christian isn’t always smooth sailing. Loved ones still get cancer. And at Christmas time there’s too much month left at the end of the money! But whatever my circumstances I know that the God who created the universe loves me and knows my name. Now the struggles in my life are so much easier to handle because I’m no longer doing it on my own. God is in my corner and he has an awesome plan for my life, one that gives me hope. And I am doing my best to live a purpose-driven life. People often ask, “What is the meaning of life?” Well, now I know. A lot of people complain about all the stuff that’s wrong with the world. I used to do that too. But now I realize that Christians are God’s hands and feet in the world. He wants to use us to make an impact — to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. The *Blues Brothers* were on a mission from God. Well, now I am too. I’d love to tell you more sometime ...

session 4

Engel Scale of Evangelism

Dr. James Engel was the director of the Billy Graham graduate program in communications at Wheaton College. He developed this model to explain how non-Christians and Christians are not all at the same place on their spiritual journey.

- 10..... Awareness of the supernatural
- 9..... No effective knowledge of Christianity
- 8..... Initial Awareness of Christianity
- 7..... Interest in Christianity
- 6..... Awareness of basic facts of the Gospel
- 5..... Grasp of implications of the Gospel
- 4..... Positive attitude to the Gospel
- 3..... Awareness of personal need
- 2..... Challenge and decision to act
- 1..... Repentance and faith

0 A Disciple is Born!

- +1 *Evaluation of decision*
- +2 *Initiation into the church*
- +3 *Become part of the process of making other disciples*
- +4 *Growth in understanding of the faith*
- +5 *Growth in Christian character*
- +6 *Discovery and use of gifts*
- +7 *Christian lifestyle*
- +8 *Stewardship of resources*
- +9 *Prayer*
- +10 *Openness to others/Effective sharing of faith and life*