

Session 4

Am I ready to share my testimony?

Am I ready to share Jesus in whatever opportunities arise?

Note: If it works for your team, you can do the content of class 4 & 5 together, and then for class 5 meet up to go over packing things together. Whatever works best for your team!

Testimony Tips

PLEASE DO:

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write.
2. Prepare your testimony so you can share it with groups as well as with individuals.
3. Keep within your time limit (at most a page, written out).
4. Be realistic and practical.
5. Consider your audience. Be sensitive to them. Write and speak to communicate with the particular group to whom you are speaking.

PLEASE DON'T:

1. Don't make statements that reflect negatively on the church, other organizations, or other people. Don't condemn others.
2. Avoid speaking in a preachy manner. Preaching won't communicate nearly well as sharing yourself with the audience. Speak about personal experiences in your own life to which they can relate. Let the Holy Spirit do the convicting.
3. Don't use vague terms such as "joyful", "peaceful", "happy", or "changed" without explaining them.
4. Avoid using Biblical words such as "saved", "converted", "convicted", or "sin" without clarifying what you mean. Non-Christians may not be familiar with these words.
5. Don't force your testimony on another person.

WRITING HINTS:

1. Begin with an attention getting sentence or incident.
2. Be positive from start to finish.
3. Be specific. Give enough details to create interest.
4. Be accurate. Include interesting, thought provoking experiences.
5. Use one or two Scripture verses, but only where they would relate directly and fit in naturally.
6. Write a closing that makes your testimony sound finished and logical. The closing of the testimony should relate to the main theme of the testimony.

PRESENTING YOUR TESTIMONY:

1. Rehearse your testimony until it becomes natural. You should know your testimony well enough that it doesn't sound memorized as you present it.
2. Share your testimony with conviction in the power of the Holy Spirit. You should believe what you are sharing in your testimony.
3. Speak clearly but in a natural, relaxed tone. Speak loud enough to be heard.
4. Make eye contact with the audience.
5. Avoid arguing or using emotional pressure or methods to obtain decisions for Christ. We are not in charge of "saving" anyone: that is the job of the Holy Spirit.
6. Remember that a successful testimony is one given in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

Working with a Translator:

1. Remember that your testimony will be translated if the audience doesn't speak English. Be prepared to pause after every thought or sentence.
2. Rehearse telling your testimony with someone else repeating (in English if not with a translator) what you say, so you can get an idea of how and when to pause, and how long it will take.
3. Try to meet with your translator beforehand to go over your testimony, and any tricky words/ideas that might come up. Make sure any jokes/cultural issues are gone over.
4. Bring an extra copy of your testimony to give to your translator for them to put notes on.
5. Don't speak to the translator: speak to the audience.
6. Glance at the translator while they are talking to make sure they are connecting/following you.
7. Speak in complete sentences--but not complicated or too long of sentences.

Testimony Outline

1. What was my life like before I trusted Jesus Christ?

2. How did I come to trust Christ? How did I come to give Him complete control of my life?

3. What happened after I trusted Christ? How did my life change?

Pertinent Scripture verse(s):

What will I remember about speaking with a translator?

Sharing Jesus

How have you shared Jesus with others in the past?

Which of these tools do you feel comfortable with using:

- The Bridge Illustration
- The Wordless Book
- Gospel Tracts
- A survey
- Romans Road
- Prayer Station
- Other:

CLASS 4 HOMEWORK

1. How do you share Jesus in a different culture? How might that change things?

2. How do you share Jesus in a country where you do not speak the language? How does that change things?

3. When we think about "Sharing Jesus," we often think of sharing the Gospel, which is a very important thing--but it is not the only thing. What are other parts of sharing Jesus with others?

4. God has given believers spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:11). Take some time to pray about what your gifts may be (Check out Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4).