

How to Witness Anywhere!

Witnessing Isn't Difficult, But It Does Take Courage

Here is a simple way to share with someone.

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Watch for an opportunity to engage.
3. Use the LOVE principle to engage in *dialogue*:
 - a. **Location** – this can be the destination where you are going, or where you come from, or things connected to a location like weather, family, or friends.
 - b. **Occupation** - this is what you they do and what you do (such as being a student). If they don't have a job, there will be other things that they do to occupy themselves, like caring for someone, or being a stay-at-home parent.
 - c. **Vacation/Vocation** – this can be hobbies that they enjoy or something they are interested. You will use this as an opportunity to share that one of your interests is helping people and the reasons why, leading into the spiritual side.
 - d. **Experience with God** – you can potentially lead in with a question such as, “Are you connected with a church or faith community?” In turn, this will lead to how you have experienced God, or it can be your personal testimony of how you came to trust in Jesus (see the elements below).
4. Leave something with them. Your phone number, social media account, a tract, booklet, or personal gift.
5. Pray that God will use the words that you have spoken to change their life.

It Begins with You

If you want to share your faith, you must begin in this simple place. You can only be a witness to what you have personally experienced:

This is how John gave witness to Jesus: “we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen! And now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God himself took shape before us. We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, 1 John 1:1-3, *The Message*.

What is your experience with God?

Remember, It's not a point of arrival – it's a journey. It's not about a *destination*; it's about the *direction* you are headed in.

What is God doing in your life? Not necessarily in the spectacular things, but how is he changing how you live your life?

Sharing Your Testimony with Others

There are three essential elements to sharing your faith experience:

1. The Setup – This presents a dilemma – how you were trying to do things without God. It should leave the person wanting to find out how the dilemma is solved. For example, *I grew up in a Christian home, but when I got to university, I felt a need to get to know God for myself. I asked if what I had been taught was true or a made-up fairy tale. .*
2. The Resolution – This is what happens when God begins to show up and you experience Him. It should lead a person to have greater faith in God. For example, *While I was grappling with my doubts about God, I went for a walk in the woods. It was a cold day, and I didn't walk very far. I sat down on a log discouraged and realized that I had to figure this God-thing out or it was going to rip me apart. That was when God showed up. I remembered a verse I had read as a child, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." "Alright," I told God, "I'm going to find you and I'm not going to give up until I do." That very night something happened that changed my life ...*
3. The Results – This is letting the other person know what happens as a result of your experience with God. It's helping them to see the benefits of following Jesus. For example, *Once I made that decision, I felt peace. I realized that I had been battling with internal conflict in my soul, and I didn't have to fight that anymore. That doesn't mean I don't struggle, but it's that I don't feel like I have to struggle alone.*
4. The Close – This may be silent, as you let your words sink in and pray for the person, or it may be a next step. For example, *I'd like to stay in contact, do you have a good way to reach you? I will be praying that God will lead in your life, the way he led in mine. Is there anything in particular that I can pray for?* It may also be a direct appeal. *It sounds like God is trying to reach you, but that you're struggling to trust Him. What do you think it would take for you to give Him a chance?*

Some tips...

Be practical in describing the changes in your life since you became a Christian. Describe how God is helping you learn how to trust Him more.

Be sure to mention that you are not perfect now! You still have many problems every day, but Christ enables you to face them realistically and to solve them God's way. You are not perfect, but you are forgiven and progressing.

Practical areas that Christ has changed might include relationships, goals, and priorities, good or bad habits, attitudes, the atmosphere in your home, etc.

Some Dos & Don'ts

1. Learn to tell what God has done, not what you have done. Be humble, make your listener feel comfortable.
2. Use terms people can understand. Avoid "Adventese". I learned the "truth." "Justification." "I'm saved by grace." "I've been washed by the blood." Instead use phrases like, "My life is so much more peaceful now," "I'm much more confident now that I'm not carrying all this guilt with me," "Life is so much easier when I remember that God has a plan for me."
3. Be real and sincere. Share how Christ enables you to walk *through your problems, rather than removing them from your life.*
4. Don't be critical of other people or churches. Examples: Guard the reputation of family and friends, even if they are part of a painful past. Your former church persuasion may not have been doctrinally correct, but we must remember that we were once a part of them.
5. Never glamorize sin. Be very careful in giving details of the evils of your past. Instead, give details about your NEW life. Exception: certain times when it's important to let someone know that you can relate to them.
6. Avoid dogmatic or mystical statements that skeptics can question" such as "I prayed and God gave me a job," or "God said to me.. ."
7. Instead of dwelling on the trials and sacrifices, dwell on the blessings and rewards. Help people see that you believe it's worth it to follow Jesus.
8. Don't be religious or preachy! Rather, sound conversational and use informal language.
9. Build your testimony around a theme. Choose something characteristic of your experience that is of general interest to non-Christians, e.g. success, search for meaning and purpose, dealing with tragedy, etc.
10. Use word-pictures. Find ways to describe your experience in a visual or emotionally captivating way.