

The Story of God in your Life. What's your "Testimony?"

You may not know it, but you have a unique and desperately needed testimony.

How to organize and recount your testimonies.

The Navigator motto: "To know Christ and to make Him known."

2 Tim 2:2 – 4 generations.

Testimony - tes·ti·mo·ny:

'testə,mōnē

noun

1) - a formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law.

synonyms: evidence, sworn statement, attestation, affidavit; statement, declaration, assertion, affirmation; allegation, submission, claim; deposition

"Smith was in court to hear her testimony"

2) - evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something.

"his blackened finger was testimony to the fact that he had played in pain"

synonyms: testament to, proof of, evidence of, attestation to, witness to; confirmation of, verification of, corroboration of, demonstration of, illustration of, indication of

"the work is a testimony to his professional commitment"

3) - a public recounting of a religious conversion or experience.

1 John 5:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹ And this is the **testimony**, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Who ever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. **(Gr. – Martyria. From the Greek route word Martus – (mar'-toos) witness, by implication eyewitness)**

Acts 4:19-22 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ **for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.**" ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

Mark 5:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, **"Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."** ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

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Mark 5:22-23,35-42 (ESV)

²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."

³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ But over hearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.

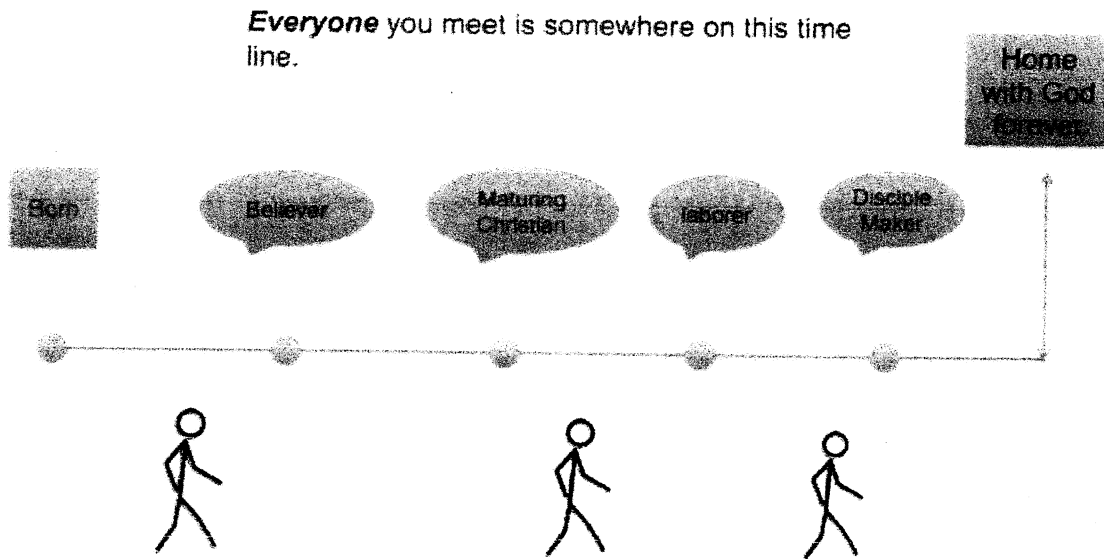
Who receives our Testimony, To whom do we give it?

"There are no ordinary people. **You have never talked to a mere mortal.** Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - **immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.** This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption."

— C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory

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Disciple Life Timeline



2 Questions you must answer before you can share with anyone.

- 1) Where am I on this line?
- 2) Where is my friend/acquaintance on this line?

Yes,...This implies that you must have a conversation!!!

John 4:7 - Woman at the well. Jesus said, "Give me a drink."

Acts 8:30 – Philip said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Acts 17:17,22 Paul is reasoning and debating Jews, Greeks, and prominent men of the city. (Multiple conversations about many subjects)

How do I organize my testimony?

This is a recounting of events leading to a historical fact.

Acts 25:18-19 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. ¹⁹ Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive.

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There are basically three parts to my testimony for organization purposes.

1) What led up to the event? (Acts 26:4-11)

2) What was the event? (Acts 26: 12-18)

3) How has that event changed you/How is your life different? (Acts 26:19-23)

Guidelines to Start

- 1) Tie the particulars to a special place and time. If you can remember a date, that's great. A season, summer camp or something that gets you started on your story.
- 2) Also people, a person or group of people that impacted you. How you were impacted by others.
- 3) Be sure to include how you saw/or now see God working in the details. Remember this is about Him.
- 4) Finally, you are where you are today because of God's impact. Think about your disciple life line and how you have moved forward. How has that happened?