

# Sharing From Your Experience

## What Jesus Did for Me

Your experience of how God saved you and how He changed your life is powerful. God can use your story to reach out to the people around you. God invites us to be part of His great plan — telling other people about Jesus.

## Your Powerful Story

### Mark 5:19-20 (NIV)

- (19) Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”  
(20) So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

What should we tell people and why?

### Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV)

- (5) Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.  
(6) Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

How should we tell people our story?

### Romans 1:16 (NIV)

- (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

What can stop us from telling our story? What should we do?

### Acts 1:8 (NIV)

- (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

What kind of power is it? What is it for?

## How to Share Your Story

### Acts 26:9-23 (NIV)

- (9) “I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.  
(10) And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.  
(11) Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.  
(12) “On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.  
(13) About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.  
(14) We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’  
(15) “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied.  
(16) ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me.  
(17) I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them  
(18) to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’  
(19) “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.  
(20) First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.  
(21) That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.  
(22) But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—  
(23) that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

There are 3 parts to the structure of Paul’s story.

### 1. Before receiving Christ:

#### Acts 26:9-11 (NIV)

- (9) “I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.  
(10) And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.  
(11) Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.

Paul doesn’t describe every detail of what he did wrong, but rather, focuses on why he did those things (don’t share information that’s too personal, or about areas where you don’t have the victory).

### 2. His encounter with Christ:

#### Acts 26:12-18 (NIV)

- (12) “On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.  
(13) About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.  
(14) We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’  
(15) “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied.  
(16) ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me.  
(17) I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them  
(18) to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Everyone’s encounter with Christ is special, even if it’s not as dramatic as Paul’s encounter.

### 3. After receiving Christ:

#### Acts 26:19-23 (NIV)

- (19) “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.  
(20) First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.  
(21) That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.  
(22) But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—  
(23) that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

How did Paul Change?

What were the benefits of his changed life?

## Ask a Friend

Can you share your story? Keep it short! (Under 3 minutes)

Follow the structure used by Paul.

1. Before receiving Christ:
2. Encounter with Christ:
3. After receiving Christ:

If you have time, share your story with the group or in pairs.

## Application

How have you changed?

What are the benefits of your changed life?

## Prayer Model

Lord, I pray that I will have an opportunity to share my story with someone else. Help me to be prepared for any opportunities that come my way.

## Key Verse

### 1 Peter 3:15 NLT

“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.”

