

The 15-Second Testimony

Personal testimony is powerful because it demonstrates that God has power to change our lives. It is a story of contrasts between our old life and our new life in Christ. The simplest example of a brief, powerful testimony is that of the blind man who was healed by Jesus, “*One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!*” (John 9.25b, NIV)

One of the biggest mistakes in sharing our testimony is that we share too much detail. Sometimes the listener won’t give you enough time to get to the part where Jesus has changed your life. The other problem is that we are too fearful to talk with an unbeliever for any appreciable amount of time—so we just don’t share at all.

This amazing method makes is really easy to tell your story by just using four simple words or phrases. You will note that this is a very scripted method, but this is done purposely to keep you on track and to avoid getting wordy. Remember, it should only take 15 seconds!

Here it is:

- Think of two words or phrases that **describe your life before you met Jesus.**
- Think of two words or phrases that **describe how Jesus changed your life.**

Then share it as follows:

“There was a time in my life when I was (**insecure**) and (**angry**).
But then I put my trust in Jesus, and I made Him King of my life.
Now I am (**secure**) and (**full of joy**).
Do you have a story like this?”

That last question is very important, as it invites the other person to share their own experience. When you practice this method in a group, use that last phrase to pass it along to someone else in the group to practice it...and on and on.

There was a time in my life when I was...	But then I put my trust in Jesus, and I made Him King of my life	And now I am...
_____	+	_____
_____		_____

Do you have a story like this?

Some people became believers at a very young age and don't remember their life before Jesus or how they came to trust in Him.

If you can't remember your conversion experience, use the following guidelines:

- Think of a phrase that **describes a time of crisis or uncertainty in your life.**
- Think of a phrase that **describes how He carried you through.**

Then share it as follows:

“There was a time in my life when I (was faced with an unbearable crisis).

But then I cried out to God and asked for His help,

And I (sensed His presence and His peace).

Do you have a story like this?”

When you are training others, you can draw it in a diagram form to help them visualize it. Work from left to right, giving participants the opportunity to fill in their own words or phrases on each side.

Most importantly...

- Practice it now several times
- Start using it by sharing with unbelievers
- Teach other believers how to share their 15-second testimony as well

