

How did God bring me to faith in Jesus?

HOW DID YOU COME TO FAITH?

Everybody has a story about how they came to faith in Jesus. For some people it would be gradual, growing up in a Christian family (as it should be). Maybe they decided to follow Jesus after years of going to Church. For others it could come out of the blue, someone shared the gospel with them on campus or they heard a radio program as they drove to work where the gospel was shared.

There is point in time according to the Bible that a person come to faith. Some people recognize that time. For others that time could have started, and they don't really know when it started. They just know that now, I am a believer.

Discuss> Survey the room: Was your coming to faith gradual or instant? Did you know it at the time or was it a realization?

THE GOAL OF OUR SESSIONS FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS

The Goal: To be able to concisely articulate how you came to faith and explain to another person how they can put their faith in Jesus too.

The goal of our times together over the next four weeks is for you to take some time to think through how you came to faith and be articulate that to another person, succinctly, while explaining, in summary, how they can put their faith in Jesus too. We will also desire to record these testimonies on video so that they can be shared easily on social media or one on one. We can put them on the church's YouTube channel so that you can share a link with people.

DISCUSS> THINK ABOUT HOW THIS COULD BE USED IN YOUR WITNESS TO OTHER PEOPLE.

THINK, PRAY, WRITE, REWRITE, EDIT WITH OTHERS

We should plan on taking some time to do this. It is not easy to write our life stories. There will occur to us several different ways to explain it or different meaningful steps in our coming to faith. It will take some time. We will take four weeks' time to write out two types of stories or testimonies: A story of how we came to faith in Jesus (a salvation story) and a story of something God did in our life that we can share with others. These can take many forms: God showed me he cares for me, he helped me with finances, or friendships, or overcoming something, etc.

It will take some time to write it out and even take a few different approaches to it. Then revise it for brevity and clarity. We will work together with each other to determine which parts seem to resonate the most and emphasize them.

A verse to consider:

1 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (ESV)

⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

A Template to prepare your testimony.

Get started. Gather your thoughts.

Think about your life before you knew Christ. What are some things that characterize your life?

Thoughts about the world (a person philosophy or viewpoint?)

Thoughts about yourself. What did you struggle with? (Insecurity, self-esteem, pride, etc.) What were you happy with?

Your relationships (with parents, siblings, friends, enemies)

Your ambitions. How did you spend your time? What did you pursue? For what reasons?

Things that made you sad, happy, confused?

A Template to prepare your testimony.

How did you come to faith in Christ?

A Template to prepare your testimony.

How would you say that you have changed after knowing Christ?

Think of various parts of your life. New joys, new peace with God, new ambitions.

A Template to prepare your testimony.

Write a first draft (Preferably type this up).

Write a draft including some things before you knew Christ, how you came to know Christ or how God led you to Christ, your life after Christ (try to give some specifics, not generalizations or it can seem unbelievable).

Think about what is unique to your story and begin to write. In a first draft, just start babbling...

Write a second draft (keep the first draft – make this a new file)

We are aiming for one page on 10pt font with normal paragraph spacing. That will be about 3 minutes of talking. 2 minutes is also good.

With this one, try to sort out what communicates the best. Surface a theme to construct the story around. Then share this with someone in the group. Try to surface which parts communicate the best and which are too long, which are too short, etc.

We will edit a third draft and then we will record your testimony on video.