



Tell Your Story:

START HERE

Like Bible characters, God speaks through your story, your wild ride through life.

Spiritual conversations start with our willingness to invite people into a purpose, a love, a hope we can't shut up about—like we would if someone we loved were pregnant, or we'd discovered a cure for cancer.

(If spiritual conversations are hard for you, maybe take time to consider whether you actually think you're giving people something *good*.)

Tips before You Start



As you prepare your story, be prayerfully thoughtful. Don't let this be a box to check, but rather a way to reflect, to thank God for who He's been, whether it's shared or not.

The Bible speaks repeatedly of meditating on God's wonderful works (Psalm 77:12, 119:27, 143:5, 145:5), and proclaiming them to others (Psalm 66:16, 71:15-16; Mark 5:19; Luke 8:39, etc.). This is your chance to start with the works you've known most intimately!

I will tell what he has done for my soul.

— PSALM 66:16



Ask permission to tell your story: “Can I tell you a little bit about my spiritual experience?”



Make God the hero. Not yourself. Ask yourself over and over: How did God seem to be moving at this part in the story?



Create different lengths of your story and get familiar with each. When in doubt, start with telling someone the elevator version (the shortest length, 100 words or so), so you don’t overestimate their interest. Be able to tell the full version of your story in under five minutes.



#NoWeirdChristians. Your story should only use words you’d use in a natural conversation...so it doesn’t sound like you just memorized something you wrote, right?

Avoid any words you don’t hear non-Christian people using in a coffee shop. (Not sure what we mean? Google examples of “Christianese.”)

Try to avoid what you *think* should be in your story and concentrate on being real.



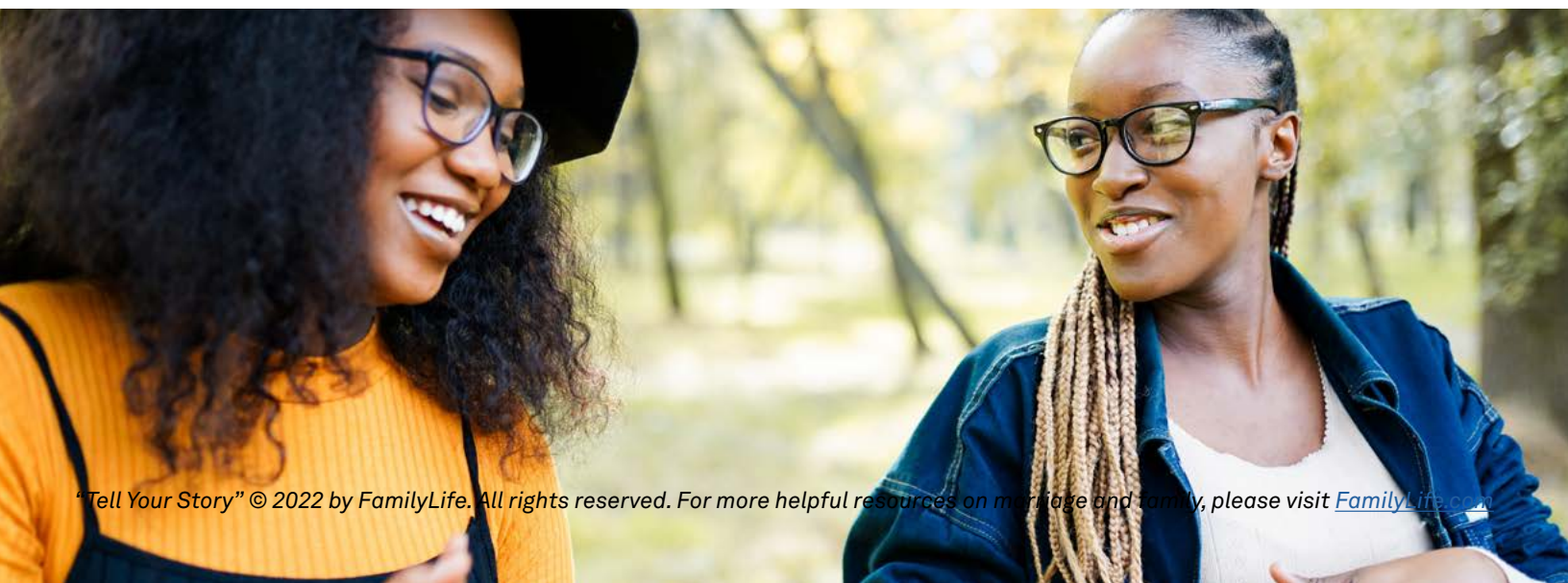
Remember that understanding the receiver’s story is just as important in a spiritual conversation, if not more so.



This worksheet can help you brainstorm. **But a single problem, storyline, or idea makes your story easier to tell and follow.** (Eliminate the bunny trails!) Eventually, choose one defining moment in your life where everything changed for you or a central problem or struggle.



Avoid generalities. Use five-senses-style details and specific examples that paint vivid pictures in someone’s head.



Let's get to it.

Need a warm up? Try making a timeline of your spiritual journey.

Who was God to you in those times? What story has He been writing? What questions did you ask inside which are now somewhat resolved? Which are still unresolved?

Who were you before you encountered Christ?

Paint a picture of your life before Him:

- Questions you were asking internally.
- Your circumstances.
- The ways you sought satisfaction.
- Your motivations.

Don't walk it back. In the Bible, God doesn't really cover up the tough parts of people's stories. They communicate how powerful He is (check out 2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

As in any great story, there's irresistible tension created by intense conflict and powerful resolution—though there's no reason to fake how bad things were.

Feel like your story is boring? (Or did you come to Christ early in life, so there's not much to tell?) Authenticity is hard for people to turn away from. Try to get as honest as you can about where God's brought you, even after your first taste of Him.

What "holes" in your heart can a lot of people identify with, which make your story relatable and real?

What compelled you to Christ?

What happened that changed it all? What circumstances, need, and even pain did the Holy Spirit use to make your heart turn from blindness to sight?

Cru recommends. "Communicate in such a way that the person you are talking with, and anyone who overhears you, can understand how they can become a Christian too."

How have you changed?

Consider

- How did Jesus make you different from the inside out?
- What's the focus and motivation of your life now?
- What gives you hope and purpose?
- What did God show you about who He is (be specific)?
- How can you, and others, tell you're not the same?

End with a sentence that brings your story together.

