

# UCM Testimony Guide

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## Preparing Your Testimony

We all have different styles of sharing our faith. Various styles include:

- Confrontational (Peter at times)
- Intellectual (Paul in Athens)
- Testimonial (Blind Man, John 9)
- Interpersonal (Matthew in Luke 5)
- Invitational (Woman at the well, John 4)
- Serving (Tabitha, Acts 9)

Be careful not to compare your testimony or style with someone else's. God works in each of our lives in unique ways because each person is unique.

All relational evangelism is an **authentic extension of a real lifestyle** in which the love of God is communicated by words (Romans 10:14) and actions (James 2:17). We are to always be ready (1 Peter 3:15) because God wants everyone to be saved (2 Peter 3:9). That is because we are all made in his image and are precious to him – each of us warrants an all-out search, and there is a celebration across heaven when a single one of us is found (Luke 15). For this reason, Jesus commands us and empowers us to share the gospel (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). This is the privilege and joy of those who have been reconciled, saved, brought into the light, given new life (1 Peter 2:9, 2 Cor 5:17-20a), by a God who loved us while we were still his enemies (Rom 5:8).

### **Your part:**

In Canada, someone who comes to Christ will have been presented with the gospel an average of 7.6 times. *Your* responsibility is to be a *faithful* witness with the skills and relationships that God has given you. Whether they come to faith (*results*) is *God's* responsibility.

To help you focus start by praying. Ask God to lay upon your heart friends whom He specifically wants you talk to this term. Make a list of two or three names of people. Continue to build no-strings-attached friendships with these people, while praying that God will draw them to Himself, and that He would give you opportunities to tell them about His love:

### **Testimony & Testimonials:**

This is a story from your life that illustrates how God has touched you. Your **testimony** describes how you came to follow Jesus, while a **testimonial** is about the fruit of your relationship with God as you have lived for Him.

Testimonies & Testimonials are effective because:

1. our friends are interested,
2. they can relate
3. it is hard to argue with
4. you are not seen as a salesperson, but a storyteller.

We all have a testimony! And we are called to be prepared to share it (1 Peter 3:15). A good testimony is about what **God has done** in your life, giving a *before-and-after* picture.

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## General Outline of a Testimony

The witness of Paul in Acts 26:1-29 is a biblical example of a testimony which deals with the *before*, *how*, and *after* aspects of receiving Christ.

- BEFORE** – Paul tells of his religious background and his resistance to Christ (26:4-11)  
**HOW** – Paul tells of his meeting with Christ on the Damascus road (26:12-18)  
**AFTER** – Paul speaks of the changes in his life (26:19-23)

In your testimony follow this same pattern by asking the following questions:

1. Before you received Christ what elements in your life caused you to see the need for change? Which of those needs might be common to others?
2. How did you receive Jesus? Be specific so that others will not see this as a vague spiritual change, but rather an encounter with the Living God. If possible recall how and when this took place.
3. After you received Jesus what are some areas in your life which you and or others have noticed change – transformation? What have been the benefits to becoming a believer? What changes might others be longing to see happen in their own lives that you have begun to experience in your life?

## General Guidelines for Preparing the Content of your Testimony

1. Keep Jesus central by telling what he has done.
2. Use the Word of God if and where it helps people “see” God.
3. Be personal (“I”, “My”) and conversational, not preachy.
4. Be careful about using religious phrases and Christian terminology. I.e. Born again, repentance, and saves. If you use them explain them.
5. Think of ways people can identify with your story. Use words that help paint a vivid picture.
6. Give specific examples of areas in your life that God has brought change to.
7. Give facts but also be sure to relate your feelings. Some people relate better to information, others to our emotions.
8. Be gracious and respect others (1 Peter 3:15). Do not be bitter or condemn other groups or denominations. Speak with humility, not arrogance.

## Simple Steps To Help You Prepare Your Testimony

1. Pray and ask God to give you clarity to explain how you met Jesus.
  2. Write brief notes on three separate sheets of paper labeled: Before, How, After
  3. Write out a draft using your notes.
  4. Make any improvements if necessary.
  5. Cut your draft down to 5 min. reading time.
  6. Practice by reading your testimony out loud. It is always a good idea to ask someone else to either read or listen to you give your testimony. Invite them to give you honest feedback and then rewrite your testimony again into a final draft.
  7. Outline your 5 min. testimony and practice giving it using only your outline.
  8. Learn to give your testimony without your outline.
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