

## HOW TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

“Our impulse to tell the salvation-story arises from listening to the heartbeat of the risen Jesus within us. Telling the story does not require that we become ordained ministers or flamboyant street corner preachers, nor does it demand that we try to convert people by concussion with one sledgehammer blow of the Bible after another. It simply means we share with others what our lives used to be like, what happened when we met Jesus, and what our lives are like now.” (From *Abba’s Child*, Brennan Manning)

There are two basic types of testimonies you can give. Don’t worry! You only have to pick one! To help you with the delightful process of telling others about God’s goodness to you 😊, we’re offering a little worksheet to help you get started, as well as some samples for you to enjoy.

Please choose one option and answer at least one of the questions in each section. Add any other important details, too.

### Option One: How I became a Christian

1. Life before Christ
  - a. What were you like?
  - b. How did you live?
  - c. What was most important to you?
2. Moment of conversion
  - a. Where were you?
  - b. Who were the key players?
  - c. What was said or done that changed your mind toward Christ?
  - d. How did you feel?
3. Life with Christ
  - a. What part of section one (Life before Christ) has changed and in what way?
  - b. What part of your life now would not be possible if you had not become a Christian?

### Option Two: God’s work in my life

1. The Challenge
  - a. What obstacle were you facing?
  - b. Why was it difficult?
  - c. How did that affect you?
2. What God did
  - a. What happened that can only be attributed to God?
  - b. What were the circumstances?
  - c. How did you feel and what did you think?
3. The Outcome
  - a. How have you changed as a result?
  - b. How has your understanding of God changed as a result?

### Helpful Hints:

- This only needs to be, at most, one page, double-spaced, 1-inch margin, 12-point font long. That’s about as long as these three “helpful hints” points and that final paragraph at the bottom of the page. Shorter is fine, and sometimes less is more. Just give the glory and focus to God, and you’ll be fine.
- Avoid using words that only make sense to Christian Asian American Southern California high school students. “J-league,” “Mt. Hermon” and “VBS” don’t make a whole lot of sense to Mexicali residents. Most of them don’t know who “Auntie Reine” is, either. Try “basketball league,” “Christian summer camp,” or “my church’s summer children’s program” instead. There’s nothing wrong with the ideas they represent, but use more generic terms to communicate them. If you can’t find the word in a dictionary, don’t use it.
- Keep it simple (silly). Use words an elementary school student can understand. I know it’s disappointing, but that means all those words you’re studying for your SATs are out. So are those impressive Christian theological terms like “justification” and “sanctification.” Actually, “Christian-ese” is generally not a good idea. If you wouldn’t use the word in daily conversation with your non-Christian friends, try to find another way to explain the concept.

That’s it! Don’t worry if you’re not sure you did it “right.” That’s why you’re turning it in with your application before the deadline! We’ll look through them and let you know by the first training meeting if anything needs to be re-worded.

**What to write (option one):**

When I was younger, I was always afraid of what people thought of me. I wanted to try different sports and activities, but I never did because I was afraid I would make a mistake in front of everyone. I was also very shy and didn't want to talk very much because I was afraid I would say something and everyone would laugh at me. In high school, I felt I had to be responsible for my success, and nothing but perfection was considered successful. I wanted to be in control, but it made me feel lonely because I thought I couldn't trust anyone to be a true friend.

The summer before I graduated from high school, I went to a Christian summer camp. I don't remember exactly what the speaker said, but I remember how God challenged me. I have known the story of Jesus' death and resurrection since I was a child, so I knew He could save me from hell, but until that moment, I only wanted Jesus to be my Savior. I thought I wanted to be in control of my life, but I also knew I could never be perfect, and only Jesus could control every situation and circumstance. That night at camp, God asked me if I was willing to let Him be the Lord of my life as well as my Savior. That night, I was glad to give Jesus control over my life here on Earth and for all eternity.

Since then, I have less fear. Sometimes, I am still afraid, but that doesn't stop me from trying new things. I believe everything that happens in my life is under God's control. When I face difficulties or disappointments, I know that God will use even my mistakes and failures for His fame.

**What to write (option two):**

After I graduated from college, I thought I would be happy working as a graphic designer. God provided a good job for me at an advertising agency and opportunities to serve as a high school leader at my church. During my first year as a high school leader, I joined our students on their annual trip to Mexicali. That was the first time I experienced God outside of the United States, and I loved it! When I returned to my home and my job, God helped me to see everything differently. He made me aware of the many people around me who also needed to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord. I started to become unsatisfied with my job. I wanted to go to a special program to learn how to help Christians talk about Jesus in their daily life, but I had to work long and irregular hours, so I couldn't go to class every week.

As the years went by, and I went to different places to talk about Jesus, I knew I had to give more of my time to evangelism. I asked my supervisor, if I could change my hours, but she told me it would not be fair to the rest of the staff. If I wanted to go more places to talk about Jesus, I would have to quit my job and start my own business. I was afraid to do that, but I believed that was what God wanted me to do. After praying and asking people for advice, I finally decided one night that I would tell my supervisor I would quit. I wasn't sure how I would find work, but I trusted God would provide for me.

The next morning, I got to the office early and found a phone message. It was my supervisor's best friend from college. She was looking for an artist who could work independently, and Michelle had recommended me. I was so excited! I had just told God I would follow Him and trust Him, and before I could quit my job, He provided work for me.

God has continued to provide for me. Sometimes He likes to test my faith by waiting until the last minute! I know that I can always trust Him, even when the situation looks difficult, because He is a good God and will always give me what I need.

**What not to write (ever):**

When I was a senior I played volleyball for the Kennedy Eagles. During a match, I had the opportunity to spike the ball. As I came down from the jump, I twisted my ankle. I was so bummed because I was benched for the rest of the season and couldn't play in the CIF finals. I thought God was being unfair because it was my last year as an Eagle, but He was gracious to me and taught me an important lesson. As part of my sanctification process, God wanted me to learn how to be content in the shadows. I wanted to quit the team, but my Christian friends reminded me of Romans 8.28 and told me to open my heart to God's hand in my life. As I surrendered myself, Jesus gave me peace. While I was on the bench, I learned how to exhort others toward love and good deeds, and now I am our team's encourager. Now, God uses me greatly because I have matured enough to make myself available to Him.