

How To Tell Your Story:

What my life was like before I met Christ: Before

In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. Ephesians 2:12 (NLT)

"I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene.¹⁰ Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death. ¹¹ Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities." Acts 26:9-11 (NLT)

Events/people that helped me find Christ: HOW

But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT)

"One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests. ¹³ About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. ¹⁴ We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.' ¹⁵ "Who are you, lord?" I asked. "And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. ¹⁶ Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future. ¹⁷ And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'" Acts 26:12-18 (NLT)

How my life is different now: Since

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

"And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven. ²⁰ I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—" ²⁸ Agrippa interrupted him. "Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?" ²⁹ Paul replied, "Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains." Acts 26:19-20;27-29 (NLT)

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**Tell your children about it in the years to come,
and let your children tell their children.
Pass the story down from generation to generation.
Joel 1:3 (NLT)**

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

I Peter 3:15, 16 (NIV)

Settle the question of who is your story.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord... I Peter 3:15 a (NIV)

Lord = "someone or something having power,
authority, or influence."

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

II Corinthians 3:2-3 (NIV)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, ¹³even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This

is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶ But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.
I Timothy 12:16 (NLT)

Prepare to _____ your story.

...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you...
I Peter 3:15b (NLT)

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD: Psalm 102:18 (NIV)

O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, ²for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—³stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. ⁴We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders. ⁵For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, ⁶so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. ⁷So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. ⁸Then they will not be like their ancestors—stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God. Psalm 78:1-7 (NLT)

Point to _____ as the _____ character of your story.

...to give the reason for the hope that you have. I Peter 3:15c (NIV)

In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. Ephesians 2:12a,c (NLT)

Philip *found Nathanael and *said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip *said to him, “Come and see.”
John 1:45-46 (NASB)

“Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” John 4:29 (NLT)

But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.”
Mark 5:19 (NLT)

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”
²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” John 9:24-25 (NIV)

Note: Everyone who receives Christ as the author of their story has an

“I once _____...; but _____ I’m...” story.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! II Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Share your story not only in your words, but in your _____, attitude, and _____.

...But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.
I Peter 3:15d, 16 (NIV)

“In the future your children will ask you, ‘What is the meaning of these laws, decrees, and regulations that the LORD our God has commanded us to obey?’ ²¹ “Then you must tell them, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand. ²² The LORD did miraculous signs and wonders before our eyes, dealing terrifying blows against Egypt and Pharaoh and all his people. ²³ He brought us out of Egypt so he could give us this land he had sworn to give our ancestors. ²⁴ And the LORD our God commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear him so he can continue to bless us and preserve our lives, as he has done to this day. ²⁵ For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the LORD our God has given us.
Deuteronomy 6:20-25 (NLT)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— Psalm 107:1-2a (NIV)