



## Story 2 Story

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### INTRODUCTION

How does God tell a woman who had an abortion that He loves her? How does God show a single mom that He cares and sees what she is going through? How does a woman know that she is loved and has value in God's sight? How does a mom know that God sees the wayward child? How does God show the world that He loves them in their everyday circumstances and situations?

God desires to use you and me to demonstrate His love to a hurting world. God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to show the love of God and prove the power of God by dying on the cross for our sins. Then He rose from the grave to live in the lives of those who put their trust and faith in Him as Savior.

Jesus left this earth with a final charge to those who believe—we should go and tell and teach others all He has commanded us (Matthew 28:18-19). God desires to use you and me to tell His story through our life story of salvation. That is the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This evangelism training tool guides you through a fresh look at God's work of salvation in you. Think through the following essential elements as you prepare your story in a 3 to 5 minute testimony: *The Accuracy of Scripture, The Attitude of Christ, and The Availability to Your Community.*

#### I. The Accuracy of Scripture

- a. Because God loved the world, He sent His Son to die for our sins (John 3:16).
- b. Because God loved us while we were sinners, we can love others (Romans 5:8).
- c. God is our strength and refuge in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1).
- d. God has a good plan for us that will not harm us (Jeremiah 29:11).
- e. The Word of God came and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

*Think about this:*

- What Scriptures did God use to draw you to Himself? (These may not be thought of as standard Scriptures used for evangelism.)

- Did God meet you in a time of suffering, depression, joy, trial, or loneliness? In what ways were you seeking to know more about God?
- Did a friend tell you about Him?
- Consider some thoughts from your story on how you personally came to know Jesus as your Savior.
- How can you tell others about how He touched your life in a unique way that drew you to the truth of the Gospel?

Example:

*When I was living in an abusive relationship, a friend invited me to her church. There I heard the pastor say that God could see what I was going through and that the Bible tells me that “God is my strength and refuge in times of trouble.” That day I trusted God by putting my faith in His Son Jesus as my Savior. Since then He came and gave me a new life that was safe and secure in Him.*

Write out a few thoughts you can use in a 5 minute testimony that tells His story through your story with **The Accuracy of Scripture**.

## II. The Attitude of Christ: Rest and Abiding, Dependence on God

- a. Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).
- b. Paul encouraged the church to have the attitude of Christ (Philippians 2:3-7).
- c. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches; apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

*Think about this:*

- What are some ways you can reach out in humility to someone who is hurting?
- In what ways do your family and friends see your gentleness?
- What are some ways you can show the love and servanthood of Christ to a hurting and dying world?

Example:

*I know that there are times in my life when I carry the burden of belief that if I don't do it, it won't get done. When God came into my life, He showed me that His burden is light and easy. I realized I needed to humbly surrender my life daily over to Jesus to carry the burdens. When I'm able to trust Him with all my cares of the world, my family, and my past failures, He gets the lead. When I surrender, I realize He is God—and I'm not.*

Write out a few thoughts you can use in a 5 minute testimony that tells His story through your story in **The Attitude of Christ**.

### III. The Availability to Your Community

- a. Jesus was always ready to listen, teach, and feed those who were following him (John 12).
- b. Jesus saw the needs of the culture and was available to the culture in times of need (Matthew 9:36).
- c. Paul had a heart for the lost Jew (Romans 9:1-5).
- d. Peter reached out to Cornelius, an unbeliever (Acts 10).

*Think about this:*

- What are some ways God would like to use your availability to show the love of Christ to others?
- In what ways have you made yourself available to someone in need?
- What are some of the needs in your community?
- What are some unique ways you could begin to show the love of Christ to those in your community?

Example:

*Yesterday at the gym, I noticed there was a woman who was very sad. I was almost finished with my workout and needed to go grocery shopping when I realized it was more important to share the hope that is in my life and in my heart with this woman. I walked over to her. We talked about her day and then I had the opportunity to pray with her and tell her about God's love for her.*

Write out a few thoughts that you can use in a 5 minute testimony that tells His story through your story in a way that shows your life is **Available to Your Community**.

### PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Write out a brief testimony using all the components developed in the previous sections.

Practice presenting your testimony to someone in 5 minutes or less.

Sample:

*It was several years ago when I felt like I was dying in a sea of confusion and depression. My life was out of control because I was hanging on to the burdens of my past, present, and future. I was in trouble and involved in an abusive relationship. Then a friend invited me to her church and the pastor told me that God is my strength and help in trouble. That day I set down all the things I was hanging on to and gave it all to God. He said that God loves me and His Son Jesus came and died for me.*

*I did not rob a bank or kill anyone, but I needed God because I was a sinner. I found out that God is a Holy God and He can't have anything to do with my sinful heart of pride, selfishness, and control. Because Jesus came to this earth and died for my sins, rose from the dead, and now lives at the right hand of God, I can find forgiveness for my sins by believing and trusting that Jesus died for me. The Bible says that if I say with my mouth, and believe in my heart, that Jesus is Lord, and God raised Him from the dead I will be saved. Saved from what? I am saved from any separation from God at the time of my death. My heart has turned from black because of sin to being white as snow. Today, my life is alive. All I want to do is tell others that they can have a new life when they trust Jesus to take control of their lives like I did.*

*I believe that if I died today I would be in heaven because of what Jesus did when He went to the cross, died for my sins, and rose from the dead to be a living Savior that lives in me and knows all about me. In the Bible there is a story about Jesus meeting a woman at a well who came to draw water. After her encounter with Jesus, she left her water pot to go and tell others about the living water that was now inside of her, never to thirst again for the things of the world to satisfy her. Today I don't need the things of the world to make me happy or satisfied because I have found the One who satisfies for all eternity. You can know that truth too. God wants us to know that He does have a plan for us and it is a good plan, one that will not harm us, but gives us a hope and a future. I'm thankful today that I know that I have a hope and a future because of Jesus Christ and what He did to set me free.*

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:**

Remember your story is His story lived out for others to see. We are called by God to live and love out loud. It is His desire that we are always prepared to give a defense for the hope that is in us. Let's continue to consider today how we can be found faithful to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ as we use the Accuracy of Scripture, the Attitude of Christ, and the Availability of our lives to bring hope to a lost and dying world.