

Listen to a person's story first, and then maybe you can tell your story after.

Avoid:

Long Winded Stories

- They can always ask for more
- Don't over supply

Fuzzy or Unclear

- What did actually happen?
- Shoot straight- provide facts

Superiority Stories

- Instant turnoff – don't brag
- "I know something you don't know"
- "I have experienced something with God that you haven't"

Overly Religious Stories

- Avoid religious terminology
- Use regular language
- Write it down to help eliminate the 'Christianese' or "Churchianity" words

Weird God Stories

- Save the wild stuff for later
- You can tell them inside church circles

Suggestions for well-told stories:

- What were you like BEFORE?
- What was the EXPERIENCE?
- How did it CHANGE you?
- BEFORE & AFTER... keep it simple and short
- Humble – told from the heart
- Relive what really happened?
- What lead up to your encounter with Christ?

Three Simple Ways to Present Christ:

A. The Bridge:

- Our mistakes create a chasm – in both our relationship to God, but also people
- By faith walk we across the "bridge"

B. The Morality Ladder

- Ideal for those who think they don't need Jesus to get to Heaven
- God at top & Bad people at the bottom
- Where do you fit?
- Jesus paid for the gap between our level of morality and His perfection

C. Do vs. Done

- What we DO does not reconcile us to God
- What Christ has DONE is our sin solution

Personal Discovery Time and Home Church Discussion:

1. Write your story down so that it can be told in one minute following the guidelines discussed.
2. Try listening to the discussions with your friends and family this week using the following approach- "Listen with the intent to understand, not to respond"
3. What were the two or three most impactful things you learned from this message?

"Lord, open doors TODAY for me, so that I may proclaim the mystery of Christ. I pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Help me be wise in the way I act toward outsiders; making the most of every opportunity. Father, let my conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that I may know how to answer everyone."

Colossians 4: 3-6

