

# HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY

This guide will help you be better equipped to share your story. Watch each video and use the How to Write Your Story guide on the next page to help craft your story.

## Step 1

- Watch the first video [here](#).
- Refer to the guide on the next page to help put your story down on paper. Take some time to answer each of the questions under each bolded point. You'll refine your story over time, so it doesn't have to be perfect. As you do this, remember to include the wonderfully special aspects that reflect the uniqueness of your story.
- Why should I share my story?
  - 1 Peter 3:15 says... "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..."
  - The story the Lord has for us is too good to miss and too great to keep to ourselves.
- Imagine God using your story to change the world, yours included. He really does this! Remember, if you follow Jesus, your story is meant to be great. A great story is worth sharing... because everybody likes a good story.

## Step 2

- Watch the second video [here](#).
- The next step is to put your answers in story form. Take the answers from each section, combine them all and put into a longer paragraph while filling in details. Once you do this with each section, you can put it all together.
- After you have your full story, try to summarize it into 2-4 sentences.
  - Example: I grew up fearful, without purpose and just lost. I got the end of my rope and went looking for answers. It shocked me but the Lord made it clear to me that what I was missing was Jesus. I gave my life to him, and I've never been the same since.
- With your longer, detailed story and this shorter one, you'll be equipped to share it in multiple ways.

## Step 3

- Watch the third video [here](#).
- Take a deep breath... your step now is to go and share your story with someone. Do you feel a little tension in that? Good, tension is one of the elements that make a great story.
- This can feel intimidating; however, you don't have to share your faith with someone in a way that seems out of place. If you are in a group, each member can take 3-5 minutes to share their story in their next meeting. This will be an encouraging time to get to know your group members on a deeper level.
- If you are not yet in a group, share your story with a family member or friend. And if you don't have anyone to share it with, we are here for you. Contact any person on the Chase Oaks staff and share your story—we would love to hear from you!

## Step 4

- Watch the fourth video [here](#).
- As you seek to grow in how you share your story, you may realize that from the moment you believed and trusted in Jesus, you've been ready to start sharing your story. The more you do it, the more comfortable you'll be. So, with thanks, let's always be ready to share our story.

# HOW TO WRITE YOUR STORY

Working through these questions will help you be better equipped to share your story. Once you answer the questions, create short paragraphs with each section to help you form your story. You may find your story relates to others, but each story is unique and special.

## What Life Was Like Before Following Jesus

- What was my life like before I started following Jesus (both good and bad)?
- Before Jesus, where did I try to find my security, identity, purpose, and/or happiness?
- What were some questions or concerns I had about God, faith, and life before Jesus?

## How I Came To Follow Jesus

- What happened that caused me to first seek the Lord?
- Describe in detail how you came to understand and believe in the truth of the gospel.
- What steps did I initially take after I started to follow Jesus?

## How Life Has Changed Since Becoming a Christ-follower

- How is my life different now that I'm following Jesus (specifically internal changes in character, attitude, perspective on life, etc.)?
- What has surprised me since I started following Jesus?
- What are struggles that I continue to have but now have hope that I can overcome?

## Helpful Notes, Hints, and Pointers

- Be honest and write the way you speak.
- Using 2-4 minutes to tell your story is a good starting point.
- Be on the lookout for opportunities to share your story (even if just small aspects). It could, and often does, lead to more opportunities.
- The Lord is the one who changes lives, but he will use your story to do it. For us, we are to simply open our lives up and follow him so that the Lord might work in and through us.

## Elements of a Great Story

- A protagonist (main character) who wants something and problems that keep them from getting what they want.
- An inciting incident with twists, turns, and tension.
- A guide may enter the picture.
- There are moments the protagonist wants to give up but they keep going when most wouldn't.
- And finally, the protagonist gets what they want (or something better).
- Helpful Resource: *Record Scratch* Week 3 found on [chaseoaks.org/messages](https://chaseoaks.org/messages).