



SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT SHARING EFFECTIVELY

EVERYONE HAS A STORY.

If you are truly a Child of God – redeemed and purchased by the blood of Christ – you HAVE a story! It takes the same amount of grace to be saved by Jesus growing up in a loving Christian home than from a crash and burn type of story. Do not underestimate the power of His story in your life.

TELL ONE STORY/THOUGHT.

Especially when speaking to kids and youth try to zero-in on one situation or issue you would like to present. In other words, you don't have to tell your whole story from beginning to end with all its ups and downs. Most youth and kids can't follow a long drawn out story. Of course, tell them as much background information they need to know to understand the situation (family, friendships, situations, upbringing, etc...).

TELL PEOPLE HOW JESUS CHANGED YOUR LIFE.

Many times testimonies contain a lot of information about what happened before we came to Christ, but not much about what happened after receiving Christ. People need to hear about what difference Christ has made in us. Focus in either on your conversion experience or something that Jesus has done in your life. When doing so, preach Jesus not Bodensee-hof, Bible school, church, etc. Jesus may have used these things but they most certainly cannot save you!

TALK ABOUT JESUS, NOT GOD.

Using the name of Jesus instead of just referring to God often makes things more clear in a religious society. His name is often the dividing line between just being spiritually interested and really coming to Christ as Savior and Lord.

GLORIFY THE SAVIOR, NOT THE SIN.

Sometimes, in order to be relevant, we spend so much time talking about our sin that the Lord's work in our lives fades into the background. People think that the dramatic will add effectiveness to a testimony and that is just not true. Our authority lies in our authenticity in Christ and what he has done.

MENTION SCRIPTURE IF POSSIBLE.

We need to learn how to let God's Word work. We are not just sharing opinions, but our experiences of what God's Word declares. The value of a testimony is that it is a personal illustration of the truth. But remember, you don't have to preach or do a bible study!

PEOPLE ARE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY.

We tend to forget that man was made for God and many people sitting in the audience are thirsty for Jesus. We can assume that God has placed us in the settings of His choice on outreach and that He has something in mind, even if we aren't aware of it. God does not need our ability, just our availability. Your testimony may just be the key God will use to open up one person's heart as you speak. Trust Him to do above and beyond what you ask or think.

AVOID USING EVANGELICAL SLANG.

Try to discover new ways of saying the old things. Many in the audience are not familiar with our vocabulary in the church. Please NEVER begin your testimony with, "I was brought up in a Christian home..." Many Germans who do not live with Jesus will think, "So was I. So what?"

SPEAK NO LONGER THAN 5 MINUTES.

Because you will be giving your testimony during public meetings, we need to accommodate for time needed for the rest of the program. Furthermore, speaking too long is much worse than being too brief. Leave your audience wanting to hear more, not less.

DO NOT USE NOTES.

It is fine to bring your Bible with you when you give your testimony if you would like to refer to a passage, but DO NOT read your testimony to an audience, it kills authenticity. God has promised that the Holy Spirit will give us the words to say at the moment we need them. (Mat. 10:19-20; Lk. 12:11-12)

LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE.

When giving our testimonies, many will be using a translator. It is important that we look at the audience and not the translator – this helps people know that you mean what you are saying! It also helps to be aware of the way we come across: eye contact, hands free, don't chew gum, etc...

TRANSLATE IN FIRST PERSON.

For those of you translating the testimonies into German, translate in the first person – "*ich*". That keeps the testimony personal. Also, make sure you too speak to the crowd and in a similar intonation as the person sharing the testimony.



SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

A GUIDELINE

Every time we present our testimony it will come out a bit differently but it is helpful to write down the important points ahead of time and to write it out completely to help formulate our own thoughts.

The Process:

- 1. Write out your testimony the way you would share it (word for word) with youth on outreach – aim for an audience of 13-16 year olds. Limit yourself to one A4 sheet of paper in size 12 font.***
- 2. Then narrow that down to bullet points and recite it.*
- 3. Then narrow it down to 3-5 one-word points.*
- 4. Then continue to recite it to another member of your outreach team for practice and time it!*

This however is only to help you prepare. When actually sharing your testimony you should do so without reading it. At most keep your one-word points (see above) in your bible together with a scripture verse you would like to share.

----- TESTIMONY FRAMEWORK -----

INTRODUCTION.

Find an interesting beginning, or ask a question.

Your listener should notice: this is also important for me!

ONE STORY/THOUGHT: _____

Especially when speaking to kids and youth try to zero in on one situation or issue you would like to present.

Give necessary background information.

How did God start working in my life?

HOW JESUS CHANGED YOUR LIFE.

Realizing your need for Jesus & how He met that need

How did I come to that point?

How did he convince you to open up to Him?

What happened?

*be specific, honest and vulnerable

CONSEQUENCES OF HIS IMPACT.

How did that one situation or issue impact me?

What has changed in my life because of it?

How do I handle my problems moving forward?

CONCLUSION

Invite your listeners to open themselves up to Jesus.

Reassure them that they can take that step because

Jesus has been faithful to you!

Share a fitting bible verse.

:: MAIN POINT ::

Answer these Questions:

What has Jesus (practically and concretely)
done in your life?

How did He convince you
to open up to Him?

:: THE GOAL ::

Animate others to open themselves up to
Jesus (in the same way that Jesus convinced
you to open up to Him)

:: TO-DO ::

Konfi Teams:

Print, Staple together team testimonies and
Hand in **by Friday, October 25th**

English Camp Team:

Email Testimonies to
chaim@bodenseehof.de
by Friday, October 18th

Weekend Outreach Teams:

Print, Staple together team testimonies and
Hand in **by Monday, October 28th**

Local Outreach Team:

Print, Staple together team testimonies and
Hand in **by Monday, October 28th**