



A testimony is a personal account or narrative shared by an individual to express the transformation they have experienced in Christ. It is a sacred practice that can both build up the members of the church and proclaim the gospel to those outside of the church (1 Pet. 3:15-16; Rev. 12:10-11). Testimonies often take two forms, as 1) the testimony story, which is a story of God's faithfulness and 2) a personal testimonial, which summarizes how a person came to follow Jesus as a response. Here is some guidance for giving a testimony. This month's Church Hack outlines the purpose and impact of giving a testimony as well as best practices for sharing your personal story effectively.

PURPOSE OF SHARING A TESTIMONY:

- » **Glorify God:** Testimonies are an opportunity to give glory to God by sharing how he has worked in your life. They remind the congregation of his faithfulness and love.
- » **Encourage Others:** Your testimony can offer hope, inspiration, and encouragement to those facing similar challenges or doubts. It reminds them that they are not alone in their struggles.
- » **Build Community:** Testimonies create a sense of unity and fellowship within the church community. They connect people on a deeper level and strengthen the bonds of faith.



TESTIMONY-SHARING BEST PRACTICES:

- » **Pray and reflect:** Pray for God to be the one who speaks through you when giving a testimony.
- » **Magnify Christ:** God is always the hero. Testimonies should always emphasize God's character and his good work in our lives.
- » **Prepare:** It is not a good idea to "wing it" when giving a testimony. Those giving a testimony should, at least, have a rough outline of what they plan to say.



TESTIMONY-SHARING BEST PRACTICES:

- » **Be timely:** Testimonies usually last around 5 minutes. It is easy to lose track of time when speaking. Be respectful of the flow of the worship service and watch the clock.
- » **Be relatable, authentic, and vulnerable:** It is important to avoid coming across as guarded or overly self-protective. Those giving a testimony should also avoid jargon — try to be accessible and relatable.
- » **Emphasize transformation:** Highlight the change or transformation that God has brought into your life. Share the before-and-after aspects of your journey.



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR TESTIMONY:

- » **Be Concise:** Focus on one story or specific example that illustrates God's faithfulness, mercy, and love. It should not be a general discussion, compilation of stories, or biography of entire life.
- » **Structure Your Testimony Narrative:** Here are some elements to include:
 - A clearly stated challenge.
 - The limits of human efforts to solve it.
 - The ways you witnessed God's faithfulness.
 - Your response to that faithfulness and the lessons learned about God or being a Christian from the experience.



THE ESSENTIALS:



Sharing a testimony is a sacred practice that magnifies Christ and celebrates the transformative power of faith. Your story has the potential to touch the hearts of those in your congregation, providing them with a deeper sense of connection, hope, and faith in God's intimate and restorative presence in our lives.