

How to Share Your Story

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Stories are so powerful. The Bible itself is a collection of stories about people following God—and they don't always follow him perfectly. They mess up. But we resonate with those stories. And other people need to hear our stories.

“Human beings are innately social creatures, and stories are the single most powerful glue that binds us together. One definition of a community is people who share common stories. People know who they are and who they belong to by the stories that they tell together” (Daniel Taylor).

A Few Models for Thinking About Your Story

Ask yourself these questions:

1. What was your life like before you knew Jesus?
2. How did you learn about Jesus and surrender your life to him?
3. What happened after you trusted Jesus?

Your Faith Timeline

Think of your faith as a timeline. What were the important events? Who were the important people? Can you identify different stages in the growth of your faith? What are they? Tell about a “turning point” in your life and how God was involved.

Plot your timeline on the line below.

Three-Sentence Faith Story

Now this is a fun little exercise to REALLY nail down a faith story. Can you tell a story about your faith in three sentences? Imagine if you were to write a three-sentence faith story about Mary: *Mary was a Jewish teenager. The angel asked if she would be the mother of God's son. Mary said, "Okay, I'll do it."*

Write your three-sentence faith story below:

Three-Minute Faith Story

We will often have a few moments to share our story with others, so I really encourage you to develop a three-minute version of your story.

When prepping your three-minute faith story:

- Limit to about 400 written words.
- Make it tight!
- Keep it short and simple.
- Write it out and practice.

When you share your story in your *Rooted* group, we are asking you to stick to about 5–7 minutes. It would be helpful for you to practice sharing your story before you share with your group.