

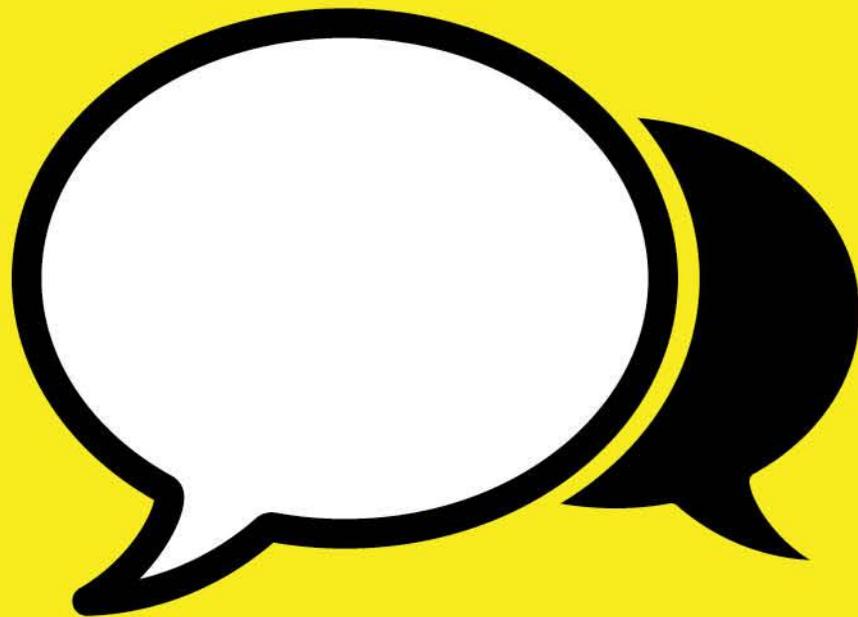


*Middle School and High School  
Sunday School Lesson 11  
August 16, 2020*

**Share Your Story**



# Share



# Your Story



# Bible Point

***Like the social media craze of “stories” (30 second bites that let us into the lives of the broadcasters), we will explore ways we can share our testimony—our story.***



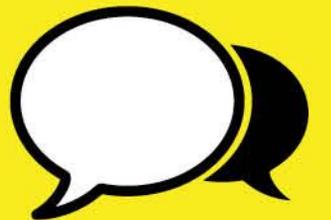
**Share Your Story**



# Discussion

1. *What does it mean to testify?*
2. *Have you ever been asked to testify before (in church, Sunday school, or another setting)? What was the experience like?*
3. *Why is sharing our testimony such an important part of being a Christian.*
4. *Are some testimonies better than others? Why or why not?*

**Share Your Story**



# Social Media Stories

## **Read I Corinthians 2:1**

*First there was Snapchat, then Vine, and next Instagram Stories.*

**Stories can be about anything:** *Whom you are hanging out with, what you are eating, something you saw on the side of the road, a promotion, and so on.*

## **Why do people use stories instead of just posting on their feed?**

*Because stories get people's attention. They show up at the very top of the feed and grab people's attention. Once you start looking at a person's story, you may feel compelled to look at all of them.*

**Share Your Story**



# *You Have a Story*

***Every single one of us has a story.***

- *Just as the gospel is the story of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, our testimony is our story of how we came to receive and be transformed by the gospel.*
- *Just as every social media story is unique to the individual, so every person's testimony is unique.*
- *Regardless of what your story may be, you must certainly have one.*

**Share Your Story**



# The Power of Your Story

Social media tends to feed our natural desire to compare ourselves to each other. We can look at what others are broadcasting and feel like what we have to express simply does not measure up. However, Paul warned us in **II Corinthians 10:12** not to compare ourselves to each other. **Jesus values each one of us equally.**

The book of Revelation tells us we overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. (**Revelation 12:11**)

No matter how you feel your story compares to others, there is power in it, because it set you free. And if there was power in it to set you free, it can help set others free too.

People can argue with you about what the Bible says, but they cannot argue with you about what you have experienced. **There is power in your experience.**



## Share Your Story



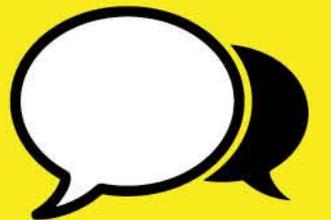
# Loading Story . . .

*You have probably seen plenty of social media stories that were not very exciting, and you have also seen some really good stories where you could tell the person put some real thought into the story.*

*The difference between a boring story and a good story is having something meaningful to express.*

*The same is true of our testimony. There is nothing wrong with preparing ahead of time for what you will say if you have an opportunity to share your testimony. In fact, 1 Peter 3:15 encourages us to have an answer when people ask us about our faith.*

**Share Your Story**



# Paul's Story

*In the Book of Acts, we read about Paul being arrested and put through a series of trials. His goal was ultimately to appeal to Caesar so he could share the gospel with him.*

**As Paul went through each of his trials, he told his testimony. Each time, he told it the same basic way:**

1. He started by talking about his past
2. He shared the moment he met Jesus
3. He explained how meeting Jesus changed his life
4. He encouraged his audience to seek that same experience

*Paul's approach is a good template for us to structure our own stories.*

**Share Your Story**

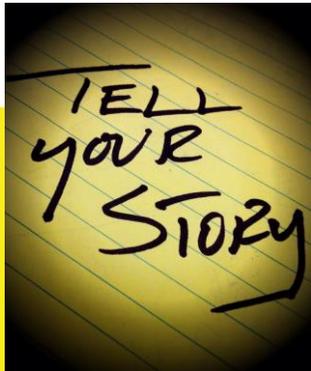


# How to Tell Your Story

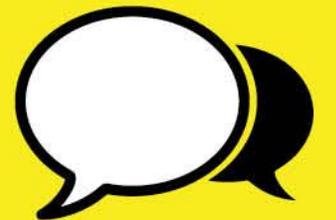
**Talk about Your Past:** *You don't have to get into private details, **but it is okay to admit how lost you were when Jesus found you.** Explain why you wanted to leave your past and find something better.*

**Talk about Meeting Jesus:** Talk about the moment that was the turning point for you. Do you remember the day you were baptized, received the Holy Ghost.

**Talk about How Jesus Changed You:** *Living for Jesus is not painful; it is beautiful. Do not be afraid to let other people see your joy.* Talk about how you feel about our life now versus your life before.



## Share Your Story



# *Tell Your Story*

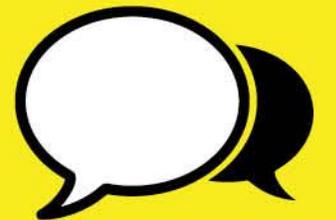
*Sometimes when we are in the moment, we have a hard time thinking on our feet. We want to share our testimony, but we do not know what to say. Take a moment to think about it.*

***What would you like people to know about what Jesus has done for you?***



***Write your thoughts down.***

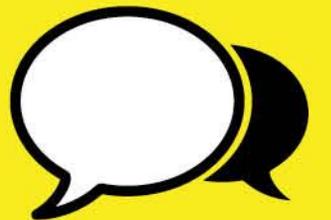
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# *Invite Others to Experience Jesus*

- *The whole point of our testimony is to lead others to Jesus.*
- *Once you have shared what Jesus has done for you, invite your audience to respond.*
- *Remember, you are not responsible for whether others receive the gospel. Take the pressure off yourself. You are simply telling a story; whether others “like” it or not is between them and God.*

**Share Your Story**



# Expand



*Sharing our story is one of the most intimidating things we can do. The gospel is Jesus's story, and if people do not accept Jesus's story, they are rejecting Him. If people reject our story, we can forget that it is actually Jesus they are rejecting; it can feel like they are rejecting us. Besides, what if they do not believe us? What if they think we are weird or crazy?*

*Although it can be intimidating, it is also one of the most powerful ways we can share our faith. Stories have power. That is why there are so many stories in the Bible. If stories did not matter, the Bible would just be full of God's commandments; however, through stories we see how a relationship with God impacts real people with real problems.*

***Get real with others so they can see what Jesus can really do for them.***

# Share Your Story

