

Unit 4 **Sharing Your Testimony**

GOSPEL OUTLINE —

Listener: Before class check circle ○

Trainer: During class check square □

INTRODUCTION

- □ **Their Secular Life**
- □ **Their Church Background**
- □ **Our Church**
- □ **Testimony (Church and Personal)**

○ □ Transition: May I ask you a question?

Two Diagnostic Questions

- □ **#1** - Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?
 - □ 1 John 5:13
- □ May I share with you how I came to know for certain that I have eternal life and how you can know also?
- □ Before I share with you, let me ask you another question...
- □ **#2** - Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?
- □ Repeat and confirm answer
- □ Transition: When you answered that first question, I thought I had some really good news for you. But after hearing your answer to this second question, I know that I have the greatest news you have ever heard.

GOSPEL

GRACE

- □ **Heaven is a free gift**
- □ **It is not earned or deserved**

MAN

- □ **Man is a sinner**

- □ **Cannot save himself**

GOD

- □ **God is merciful** - therefore does not want to punish us.
- □ **God is just** - therefore must punish sin.

CHRIST

- □ **Who He is** - the infinite God-Man
- □ **What He did** - He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins and to purchase a place in heaven for us.

FAITH

- □ **What it is not**
 - □ Mere Head Knowledge
 - □ Mere Temporal Faith
- □ **What it is** - Trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life

COMMITMENT

Transition

- □ Does this make sense to you?

Commitment

- □ Would you like to receive the gift of eternal life now?

Clarification

- □ Let me clarify what this involves:
- □ Transfer trust
- □ Receive the resurrected and living Christ as Savior
 - □ John 10:9
- □ Receive Christ as Lord
- □ Repent

Prayer

- □ If this is what you really want, I can lead us in prayer and we can tell God what you just now told me.
- □ Pray for them - that God would give them faith and repentance
- □ Pray with them - in short phrases of the GOSPEL OUTLINE, allowing them to repeat after you
- □ Pray for them - that the Holy Spirit will grant them assurance

Assurance

- □ I would like you to read something Jesus says about what you have just done.
 - □ John 6:47
- □ Two diagnostic questions
- □ Welcome to the family of God

IMMEDIATE FOLLOW UP

EVALUATION

- □ Excellent
- □ Good
- □ Needs work

Principles Underlying the Use of Testimonies



There are scriptural examples for the use of personal testimonies:

- The Gadarene (Luke 8:38-39).
- The Samaritan woman (John 4:39-42).
- The apostle Paul (Acts 22:3-21).

Testimonies are an effective and powerful means of moving from the initial stages of the INTRODUCTION into the diagnostic questions.

There are two types of testimonies in the EE ministry:

- Church testimony.
- Personal testimony.

P
3

Church Testimony

T
3

Its purpose

- To establish that the mission of the church is _____ eternal life.

Its content

- Here are two examples of how to give a church testimony:
 - ♦ "Let me share with you a little bit about our church. God wants people to have life and to have it abundantly and eternally. Yet, we have found that there are many of people in this country who attend church regularly, try to live a good life and follow God's teachings, and yet somehow the church has failed to communicate to them how they can know for sure they have eternal life and are going to go to heaven."
 - ♦ "The reason you sensed something different about our church is that the people know they have eternal life. Eternal life makes a dramatic difference in their day-to-day living and they have a desire to share the message of eternal life with others."

P
4

Its theme

- _____

T
4

Its place in the presentation

- It is natural to move from a discussion of "our church" into this church testimony.
- It is natural to move from this church testimony into your personal testimony.

Unit 4 Sharing Your Testimony

P
5

Personal Testimony

T
5

Personal testimony means your subjective _____ of eternal life.

- It shows how God is at work in real people today.
- It precludes the objection that no one can know for sure they have eternal life.

P
6

It is the first tool a Christian needs to be an effective witness.

- You know more about your own experience than any other aspect of the Gospel.
- You find it familiar and easy to share.
- Of course, if you don't have a testimony, you need to be evangelized.

P
7

Your personal testimony is used just prior to the diagnostic questions.

- You are going to present the Gospel immediately following the diagnostic questions, therefore do not include the Gospel in your testimony.
- Be careful not to give away the answer to the second diagnostic question in your testimony. If you do, it will often be "parroted" back to you.

P
8

In EE testimonies, we use the phrase "received eternal life" as a synonym for: "trusted Christ as my Savior," "born again," "received Jesus," "repented of my sins," and "acknowledged Christ as Savior and Lord."

P
9

Essential Qualities of an Effective Personal Testimony

T
6

Emphasize the _____.

- Underscore the positive benefits of abundant life here and now.
- Do not overstress the "before" section.

_____ **with your prospect.**

- Select truthful statements about yourself that will help prospects relate to your life.

Be specific

P
10

Avoid clichés and words that are _____ to the non-Christian.

- Words and phrases such as "born again," "blessing," "glory," and "praise the Lord" should be avoided.

T
7

P
11

Focus on God's _____.

- Details about sin will detract from your objective of pointing the person to God and His grace in your life.

Avoid travelogue and unnecessary details.

Choose one area of your life that illustrates the work of Christ.

- The table to the right shows some examples.

Your testimony should be given in about three minutes.

P
12

BEFORE	AFTER
guilt	forgiveness
strife	peace
rejection	acceptance
emptiness	fulfillment
rebellion	freedom
insecurity	security
loneliness	friendship
fear of death	assurance of eternal life

Preparation of Testimonies

Childhood conversion

- Part 1 - "I'm glad I know I have eternal life because . . ."
 - ◆ Complete that statement with one positive concept.
 - ◆ Example: I'm glad I have eternal life because it gives me peace in the face of death.
 - ◆ Illustrate that concept with a story out of your life experiences.
- Part 2 - always conclude your testimony by stating that you know for sure that you have eternal life and are going to heaven when you die.
- Important notes for childhood conversion testimonies:
 - ◆ Do not begin by stating that you were converted as a child.
 - ◆ Do not use childhood events to attempt to have a "BEFORE" section in your testimony.
 - ◆ Both of the above often stand in the way of communicating with adults in a witnessing encounter.

Adult conversion

- Part 1 - the "BEFORE"
 - ◆ State in a sentence one negative concept of what you were like before you received eternal life.
 - ◆ Example: Before I received eternal life I was afraid of death.
 - ◆ Illustrate that concept with a story out of your life experience.
- Part 2 - state that you received eternal life.
- Part 3 - the "AFTER"
 - ◆ State in a sentence one positive result of receiving eternal life. This is the opposite of the "BEFORE."
 - ◆ Example: Now that I have eternal life I no longer fear death.
 - ◆ Illustrate this positive with a story from your life experience.
- Part 4 - always conclude your testimony by stating that you know for sure that you have eternal life and are going to heaven when you die.

Refining Your Testimony

After you have written the first draft of your personal testimony, it will be reviewed by an experienced EE trainer.

- This is accomplished during the classroom session of Unit 5.

Procedure for working on the draft testimonies:

- Review the "Essential Qualities," TN page 38.
- Each person will read their prepared testimony.

Sample Testimonies

Childhood conversion

I'm glad that I have eternal life, because it has given me the certainty of knowing where I'm going when I die. Because of this I have no fear of death and dying.

Not long ago we were driving north on Interstate 57 during an ice storm that put a sheet of glazed ice on the highway. We were easing along at 25 miles an hour looking for a place to get off the highway to find shelter for the night. As we were driving, we came alongside a semitrailer truck. The wind was blowing very hard and the trailer truck became like a sailboat catching the wind. The truck was gradually being pushed across the center line and steadily toward our car.

There was nowhere to go. We couldn't go to the right as we would run into the truck; we couldn't go to the left because we would eventually end up in a ditch with the truck on top of us! As we waited to see the outcome, death or tragic injury seemed certain. My whole life panned before me; and yet God gave me complete peace in my heart knowing that even in light of this almost certain tragedy, I knew for certain that if I were to die I would go to heaven. What a joy and difference that made as I faced that danger. And it's the same today. I know that if I were to die right now, I would go to be with God in heaven.

May I ask you a question?

Adult conversion

Before I received eternal life, I had a fear of death and dying. The thought of death terrified me because I had no idea what lay beyond death's door for me.

When I was in college, I was living in a small mobile home. One night a terrible storm arose with wind gusts over 50 miles an hour! The wind was so strong that the rain was blowing horizontally across the ground. Our little mobile home was rocking on its concrete block foundation, and a bolt of lightning struck a tall oak tree right next to it. I was frightened and sat on the edge of the sofa fearful that I was going to die.

Not many months later, a friend shared with me something very wonderful and I received eternal life. Many things changed in my life.

Now that I have eternal life, the fear of death and dying is gone. Not long after I had received eternal life, we were driving north on Interstate 57 during an ice storm that put a sheet of glazed ice on the highway. We were easing along at 25 miles an hour when we came alongside a semitrailer truck. The wind was blowing very hard, and the trailer began to act like a sail catching the wind. The truck was gradually being pushed across the center line and steadily toward our car. There was nowhere to go! We could not go to the right; the truck was there. If we had gone to the left, it would have been into the ditch with the possibility of that truck on top of us! As we waited to see the outcome, death or tragic injury seemed cer-

Unit 4 **Sharing Your Testimony**

tain. My whole life panned before me; and yet God gave me complete peace in my heart knowing that even in light of this almost certain tragedy, I knew for certain that if I were to die, I would go to heaven. What a joy and difference that made as I faced that danger. And it's the same today. I know that if I were to die right now, I would go to be with God in heaven.

May I ask you a question?

How NOT to give a personal testimony

NOTE: Many of the following words and phrases are significant to believers. However, they may be insignificant and distracting to non-believers and should not be used in a personal testimony.

I received a blessing when I became a Christian. I received deliverance through the sinner's prayer. I was unsaved and needed to be saved. My conversion happened when I put my faith in Jesus Christ, my Savior, who died for the sins of those who trust Him. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Amen! I received salvation when I believed the Gospel and was washed in the blood of the Lamb. I was born again when the Holy Spirit spoke to me at the altar of God. I lost all my friends and my job. The devil has been after me ever since. Praise His name! The trials and tests are unbearable. I just hope I can hold out to the end. Then, maybe I'll be able to go to heaven.