



Matthew 5:14-16

SHINE

IMPACT 2020/21

"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A TOWN BUILT ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN. NEITHER DO PEOPLE LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT UNDER A BOWL. INSTEAD THEY PUT IT ON A STAND, AND IT GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE. IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."

Impact Testimony Guide

Preparing Your Testimony:

Rely on the Holy Spirit and trust his guiding of your words.

Your story is important and has kingdom value.

This idea of a testimony isn't only a Christian idea... We encounter testimonies often. Ever hear an advertisement or watch a commercial?

In these testimonials there are usually two main components; a need and a solution for said need. You'll notice that the need is an important aspect, but there is usually a greater emphasis on the solution.

ACTIVITY (for you or for your group): Think of advertisements and commercials that have stood out to you. Describe it and identify the need that they are wanting to fill.

Our Christian testimonies can follow a similar structure to this...

We all have this deep need for Jesus, and our stories, or testimonials highlight the work of Jesus in our life.

They are stories and highlights of God's faithfulness to us, not simply a chronological account of our lives. They are an overview of God's faithfulness in our lives.

They don't have to be formal...

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" 1 Peter 3:15.



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We will begin the elevator pitch testimony!

Think of it as 2 minutes to share about what God's been teaching you lately or a specific lesson you've picked up or learned over your life.

Take a couple minutes to write down an example of an "elevator pitch" testimony of something God has been showing you lately. If possible, share this with someone right away!

Sometimes you'll be given opportunities to share a broader overview of your "life narrative" with God - in the same manner as before, this should be a testament to how God has made a difference in your life.

Consider first writing a general timeline of your life (not a faith story necessarily), but generally significant events - then on the outsides of those, write down how you saw God in those times, what he was teaching you, how he was working - as you make your way through this in sharing, testify to how Jesus relates to the events in your life, your need for him, and the difference he makes!

Another key idea: SHARE FROM YOUR SCARS RATHER THAN YOUR OPEN WOUNDS

- vulnerability is important but share from a place of healing rather than hurt.
- The danger in sharing from open wounds is that if our youth think our life is too burdensome for them, they might not feel comfortable leaning on us for support.
- We need to have people to lean on and share our open wounds with - that is where peers and mentors are walking with and supporting you.
- You can still model vulnerability to youth by sharing from your scars, and past hurts, but we can do this with clarity rather than confusion. Sharing with clarity about current situations can be hard to do.



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