

Personal Witness Talk Outline

Begin in prayer: Pray, and ask our Lord to give you wisdom and direction. Every story - your story- is special and unique.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

1 John 1:3-4

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Mt 5:14-16

Four points:

- ❖ what I was like before Jesus,
- ❖ how I realized my need for Jesus,
- ❖ how I received Jesus, and
- ❖ how my life is meaningful now that I know Jesus and the Catholic Church

1. **Before:** This is where you explain what your life was like before you had a relationship with Jesus, and what you tried that did not work. Keep this section the shortest.
2. **Reasons:** What prompted you to want to know about Jesus? What were the reasons you felt the need for Jesus?
3. **How:** How did you come to know Jesus and place your trust in him? This is where you explain how your Christian experience and faith occurred.
4. **After:** How are you different now that you have relationship with Jesus? What has your life been like since? What are the changes that took place? What are the positive benefits that you have experienced? What has _____ meant to you? *Your relationship with Christ, God's love, Grace, God's forgiveness, freedom from fear, a better perspective of life, having a purpose, dealing with difficult people, dealing with stress, overcoming tragedies, having God's counsel, honest living, a place of belonging, peace of mind, no fear of death, eternal security, forgiving others, fulfillment, significance, the impact of God's Word, understanding others, Mass, fellowship of other Catholics, strength, Fruit of the Spirit in your life, the Sacraments, etc.*
*Remember this is a journey and we are all works in progress!
5. **Next step:** Why do you want people to know about Jesus and his Church?

A Biblical Example: Paul's Testimony

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city. At the feet of Gamaliel. I was educated strictly in our ancestral law and was zealous for God, just as all of you are today. I persecuted this Way to death, binding both men and women and delivering them to prison. Even the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify on my behalf. For from them I even received letters to the brothers and set out for Damascus to bring back to Jerusalem in chains for punishment those there as well.

“On that journey as I drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from the sky suddenly shone around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ I replied, ‘Who -are you, sir?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazorean whom you are persecuting.’ My companions saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who spoke to me. I asked, ‘What shall I do, sir?’ The Lord answered me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything appointed for you to do.’ Since I could see nothing because of the brightness of that light, I was led by hand by my companions and entered Damascus.

A certain Ananias, a devout observer of the law, and highly spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me and stood there and said, ‘Saul, my brother, regain your sight.’ And at that very moment I regained my sight and saw him. Then he said, ‘The God of our ancestors designated you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of his voice; for you will be his witness^{*} before all to what you have seen and heard. Now, why delay? Get up and have yourself baptized and your sins washed away, calling upon his name.’

“After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry, leave Jerusalem at once, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ But I replied, ‘Lord, they themselves know that from synagogue to synagogue I used to imprison and beat those who believed in you. And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself stood by giving my approval and keeping guard over the cloaks of his murderers.’ Then he said to me, Go, I shall send you far away to the Gentiles.”

Acts 22:1-16 (there is a shorter version in Acts 26:9-23)