

## why your story matters...

*Fight Club*, through the voice of Tyler Durden writer Chuck Palahniuk says:

"We are the middle children of history-no purpose or place. We have no great war, no great depression. Our great war is a spiritual war. Our great depression is our lives. We've all been raised on television to believe that one day we'd all be millionaires and movie gods and rock stars. But we won't. We're slowly learning that fact."

1 Peter 3:15 – 16

## a biblical example of a personal story

Acts 22:1-21

Acts 26:2-22

Features of Paul's story:

*Before* – general description of life before believing (Acts 22:1-5)

*How* – description of how belief came about (Acts 22:6-16)

*After* – example of how belief in Christ has changed life (Acts 22:17-21)

## how to share your personal story

- *Pray*  
Ask God to help you think what bits of your life are best to share with which friends.
- *Keep it personal*  
Think about who you want to share your story with. Which particular groups or individuals do you have in mind? This will help keep it personable and relevant. Opening yourself up will allow people to ask questions & build integrity.
- *Keep it short*  
Under 3 minutes or no more than an A4 page typed. Practice it.
- *Keep it simple*  
You don't need to prove God or the gospel. You are sharing the hope you have with a friend not trying to win public debate. You also don't need to tell them every different thought and facet of your story.
- *Keep it real*  
Don't imply that life is now perfect... be honest about the life that you are now living and speak boldly about Jesus – he should be the focus!
- *Keep it natural*  
Try not to use Christian jargon or words that too easily describe the situation in a vague way. Use words you normally would use and speak in a natural and relaxed way.

# your story workshop

**Quick Guide** (Whether you never know a day without Jesus or you came to know Jesus later in life)

- *Start with the best part*  
The moment of clarity in understanding; penny dropping; particular incident where you realised you just acted like a Christian; the questions that made you question/investigate Christianity.

**What started your faith story?**

- *Keep it about Jesus (and about you.)*  
What is the most important detail about Jesus Christ that you have discovered and cherish, when you first were coming to faith?

**What first / continues to attract you to Christianity and Jesus?**

- *Stress GRACE & the LOVE of God.*  
It's by him who you have been saved... the people, events, circumstances of life were all means by which God worked to bring about your salvation.

**How do you see God's grace and mercy in your story?**

- *Share what it is like to live as a Christian.*  
Be honest about the joys, the struggles, the benefits. Try not to make statements that reflect negatively on churches, organisations or particular people.

**What are one or two changes you have made in your life since becoming a Christian?**

## Personal Preparation

### 1. *What was life like before you received Jesus Christ?*

- What was my attitude towards:

God

Churches

Jesus

Christians

- Around what did my life revolve the most?  
Where did I get my security, significance, needs and happiness?
- In what ways were my activities unsatisfying?  
How Christianity begin to put perspective on these activities and attitudes.
- Where did I look for security, peace of mind, happiness?

### 2. *How did you come to know or receive Christ?*

- When was the first time I heard the Gospel? When was I exposed to true Christianity?
- What were my initial reactions?
- When did my attitude begin to change? Why?
- What were the final struggles / objections that went through my mind before I accepted the truth about Christ?

# your story workshop

- In view of all this why did you decide to accept Christ?
  
- How exactly did you do this... prayer? What words did you use?  
(this can be helpful to give people one model for how they can make the same decision).

### 3. What happened since receiving Christ?

- What specific changes has Christ made in my life, actions and attitudes?

- What is the biggest difference Jesus makes to my life?

- How long did it take before I noticed changes?

- Why am I motivated differently now?

- What is my attitude towards:

God

Churches

Jesus

Christians