

# Faith Stories

Faith Stories of God's people are used by God to communicate who He is and how He has revealed Himself through the person and work of His Son, Jesus. And as a person lives out his or her years here on earth, human beings become a part of the story of God. Your faith story may have an immediate impact on people or it may be months or years later. But it is our primary task to simply communicate our faith stories and let the Holy Spirit work.

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## What is a Faith Story™?

A Faith Story™ is the first-person telling of an individual's journey, or selected milestones, of their relationship with Jesus.

## What is so special about a Faith Story™?

A Faith Story™ is very real. The authenticity of honest sharing is unmistakable. No one can share your Faith Story™ as effectively as you!

## Does everyone have a Faith Story™?

Yes, but we don't always think about our journey with Jesus in this way.

## What different formats can be used to share a Faith Story™?

A Faith Story™ can be told verbally, written as a narrative, poem or song, shared through a drawing, dance or using any other means of communication.

## Why should I tell my Faith Story™?

Your testimony to God's presence in your life might encourage someone in their spiritual walk, lead a person to consider a relationship with Jesus Christ or be an enriching step on your personal journey with Jesus.

## How should I prepare?

Mentally organizing your thoughts in advance, with or without written notes, will guarantee you include

your important points. Some of the most impactful moments will be descriptions of situations in which you clearly saw God at work.

## Storytelling Basics

When writing a faith story, it is well worth your time to organize your thoughts with a few basic storytelling principles. Doing so can help your story come across more clearly so that it can have a greater impact those who read or watch it. It can also help you avoid the tendency to ramble... The best stories have a clear beginning, middle, and end.

In addition to outlining information in a basic beginning, middle, and end format, it's also good to organize your thoughts into a story arc. Powerful stories usually describe the setting, develop a few characters, lay down the details for meaningful experiences and events (rising action), share the outcome of those events (climax), and then explain what happened afterwards (resolution).

## Questions to Ponder

**SETTING** Where did your faith story begin? When you were growing up, what was your church experience like? What was your home like in terms of faith?

## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

What people were most influential in your faith development early on?

Describe those people and how they impacted you. As a child, did you have a favorite Bible story or hero?

**RISING ACTION** When were you disappointed in God? Mad at God? What happened afterwards? How/when have you seen God work in your life? How has prayer improved your relationship with the Lord? Think of an instance where it led to some new insight or outcome.

**CLIMAX** What moment(s) or events in your life shaped your faith and your understanding of Jesus the most?

**RESOLUTION** How do you feel about your relationship with Jesus right now? Why did you choose to tell your faith story? What do you want people to remember about your faith story? What values/virtues are most important to you? Why? In what ways has God blessed you?

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This material was gleaned from the ALOA website: <https://aloaserves.org/faith-stories>