

B.L.E.S.S. | Simple Tool for Storytelling

Three-Part Story

Let's use the once-blind man's story and a simple tool for learning how to tell our own story in three parts. I've used it to help me share my story with others and have taught numerous others to use it too. You wouldn't believe all the amazing stories that have come out of this simple framework. It looks like this:

Part 1: My Life before Jesus

What was your life like before you met Jesus? Or if you grew up in church knowing all about Jesus, what was your life like before you got serious about following Him? Your story begins with who you were.

Source: [Bless: 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World](#), by Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson.

Part 2: How I Met Jesus

How did you become a Christ-follower? Did you go through a particularly tough time in your life that led you to God? Did a friend invite you to a church service? Did a family member introduce you to Jesus? Did an experience inspire you to get serious about committing your life to Jesus?

Part 3: My Life since I Met Jesus

What difference has following Jesus made in your life? How has knowing Him impacted how you walk through both the good and the hard times in life? Yes, when you tell your story include both the good and hard times. People will be more impacted when you're honest about the challenges you continue to face even since choosing to follow Jesus. And don't give the easy Sunday School answer. Talk about how your life is different and how God is growing you in certain areas, but make sure you're sincere about how it's a process and how you still often get it wrong. Saint Francis Xavier said it well: "Speak to them the great mercy of God.... Sometimes people are helped by your telling of your own lamentable past."

Here are five tips to help you put your story on paper and memorize it.

ASK GOD FOR HELP. Before you write out and share your story, ask God for the words to say and insight about how to say it so that He can use it.

YOU BE YOU. Write out your three-part story the way you speak. Don't try to sound like someone else. It's your story and you just be you.

KEEP IT REAL. Don't sugarcoat or overdramatize your story. Tell the good, the bad, and the ugly just the way that it happened. Your authenticity will connect with others.

KEEP IT SHORT. Aim to keep your story three to five minutes long. At that length, it's easily something you can share in a conversation without turning it into a monologue or a sermon.

PRACTICE OUT LOUD. Once you have written your story out, practice it out loud several times until you feel like you are comfortable and could do it from memory.

Remember, you don't have to write a book. Just follow those five tips and compose a simple three- to five-minute version of your story in those three parts. Now you are ready to share it with your neighbor when they are ready.

Peter, Jesus's close friend and follower, challenged us in this way: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15 NIV). Your answer is your story. Which brings us to the final challenge...