

How do I share my faith in a succinct way?

My story: a study in Evangelism



Romans 1:15-17 (TNIV)

"That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Just mentioning the topic of sharing your faith has some running for cover and others running for their Bibles. One of the most significant moments in our life is when we come to faith. Today we want to share that journey so that you can share your journey with others.

Think about the last time you shared your faith with someone. Based on that experience complete [the 'Honestly' questionnaire \(p.7\)](#)

Review your answers: What one answer stands out to you? Why?

PERSONAL REFLECTION



On your own

Write out your journey to faith.

- How did you come to faith?
- When did it happen?
- How did you feel?
- Who was involved?
- What made the difference?
- How have you changed?

SHARE YOUR JOURNEY

- Find a person/partner and share your journey to faith with them.
- Allow them to ask questions
- Spend approximately 5 minutes sharing your story



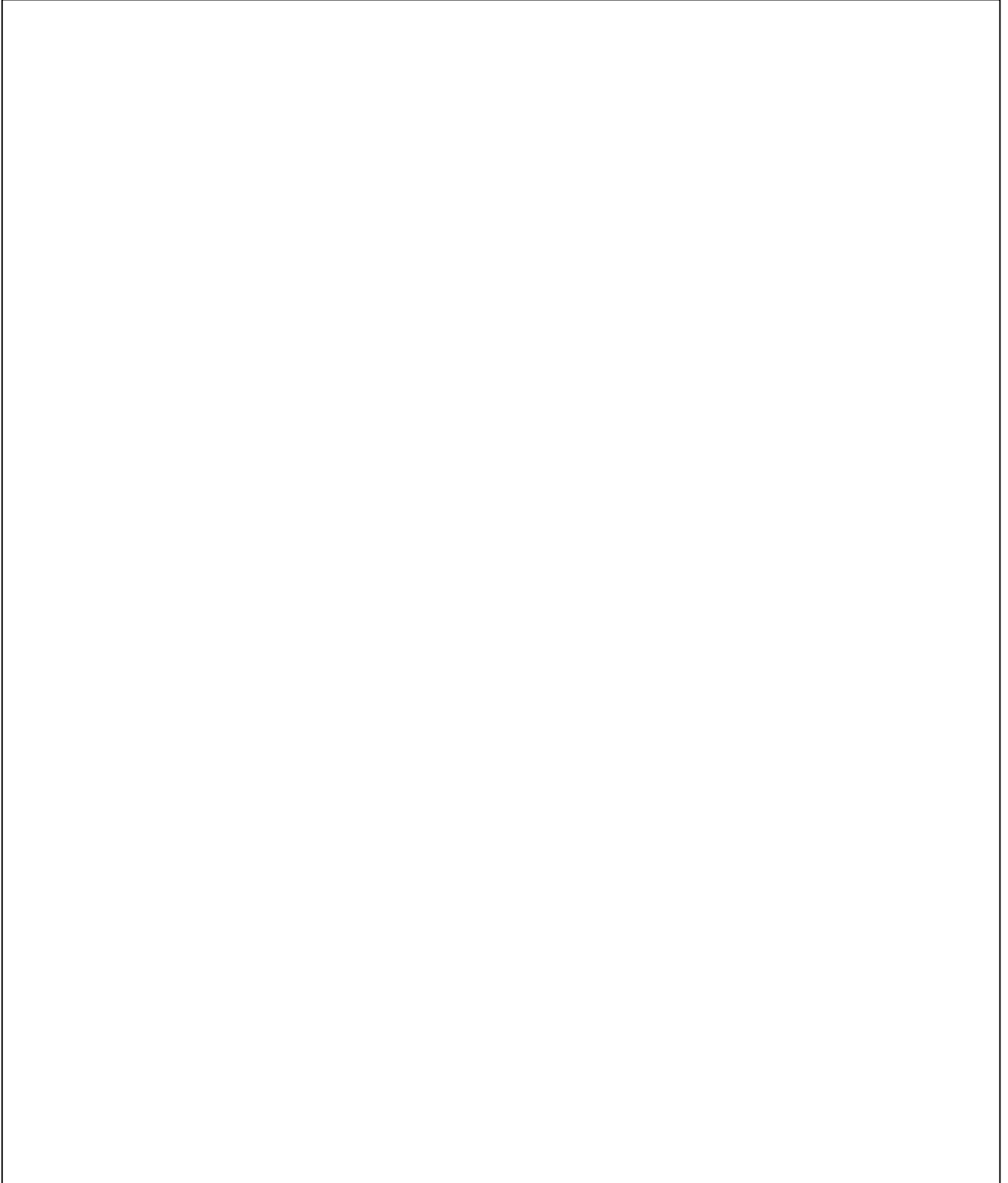
Talk About It!

- What similarities are there between your journeys?
- What was different?

WHAT DOES GOD LOOK LIKE?

Without using words, draw a picture or diagram of what God looks like to you.

- What did He look like before you came to faith?
- What has changed?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing or diagram. It occupies the majority of the page below the instructions.

‘WHO DO THEY SAY I AM?’

This section answers the following 3 questions:

1. Who are we?
2. Who is Jesus?
3. How do we meet Jesus?



- Split into groups of 3.
- Each group will be assigned A, B or C.
- Read the Scriptures and answer the questions.
- Each group should ensure that they cover one section from each box.

1 What do the following verses say about who we are as people?

A: Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 2:1-3

B: Romans 5:12; Romans 5:5-8

C: John 3:16; Romans 3:10-18

2 What do the following verses say about who Jesus is?

A: Luke 2:11; I Corinthians 15:20-22; II Timothy 1:9-10

B: John 1:29; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:3

C: John 11:25-27; Hebrews 4:14; I John 2:1-2

3 What do the following verses say about how people meet Jesus?

A: Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-11,13

B: Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9

C: John 3:16-21; Acts 3:19-20

Feedback: Share your answers with the other groups (*Write the answers on the whiteboard*)

Knowing who Christ is and who we are in Christ is an essential part of sharing our faith. Knowing how people meet Jesus equips us with the knowledge of bringing people to faith.

BEING SUCCINCT

Communication is not always about what we say but how we say it. Sometimes the essence of a story is lost in a myriad of details.

'In a Nutshell'



On your own

You have been arrested and detained while touring a foreign country. The authorities understand that you are a Christian and want to know what you believe. Write an explanation in **100 words or less**.

Knowing what we believe before we have to share will make it easier for us to share the Gospel message in a succinct way. We may only have a few moments to share and we don't want to risk spending these moments grappling with which details to share and which ones to leave out.

JARGON/CHRISTIANESE

Christianese (or Bible speak) is defined as terms and jargon used within Christianity as religious terminology. It is characterised by the use in everyday conversation of certain words, theological terms, and catchphrases, in ways that may be only comprehensible within the context of Christian belief.

Brainstorm on the whiteboard all the Christianese terms you can think of. What phrases could you use instead?



Share your 'in a nutshell' explanation with your group (of 3). Have your group tally up how many Christianese words you used.

Rewrite your explanation replacing the Christianese words with 'regular' words.

Justification

Born Again

Redeemed

Sanctification

The Specifics

We often speak about our faith in general terms. But what do these terms mean?

For each of the following statements, give a specific example: (*people to share a few examples*)

- *Jesus gives me purpose in life.*
e.g.

- *Jesus gives me guidelines for living*
e.g.

- *Jesus helps me with relationships*
e.g.

- *Jesus helps me realise my self-worth*
e.g.

- *Jesus gives me understanding*
e.g.

- *Jesus answered my prayer*
e.g.

Sharing my faith.

Identify: Brainstorm on the whiteboard

- What openings (opportunities to share your faith) have people experienced?
- Describe the situation.
- What action did you take?
- What was the outcome?

Role Play:

- In your groups, choose a situation and role-play how you would use the opportunity to share your faith.
- Choose a different situation and swap roles.

(Perhaps, a couple of volunteers could present their role play to the rest of the group.)

Evaluate:

- How did you feel?
- What worked?
- What would you do differently?

Identify: Write down potential opportunities/people to share your faith with.

*****Close in prayer*****

Honestly!

Please answer the following questions as honestly as you can about the last time you shared your faith with a non-Christian. Circle all the answers that apply, but feel free to add your own words.

- 1. How did you feel as you were sharing the Gospel?**
 - a. Confident
 - b. Fearful
 - c. Exhilarated
 - d. Uncomfortable
 - e. Concerned for the person
 - f. Unprepared
 - g. Trusting in God
 - h. Sick to my stomach
 - i. Other:
- 2. How well did you think you did at presenting the Gospel message clearly and understandably?**
 - a. Very well
 - b. Pretty well
 - c. So-so
 - d. Poorly
 - e. I explained the New Testament in the original Greek
 - f. Other:
- 3. How sensitive were you to the feelings of the person you were talking with?**
 - a. Very sensitive
 - b. Pretty sensitive
 - c. So-so
 - d. Not sensitive at all
 - e. I wouldn't know. The person left halfway through. But I went on anyway.
 - f. Other:
- 4. What do you think the result of your witnessing was?**
 - a. The person became a Christian
 - b. The person became more interested in Christianity
 - c. The person gained a new awareness of who Jesus is
 - d. The person learned to stay away from Christians
 - e. The person was a Christian but converted to something else after hearing my inept explanation
 - f. Other:
- 5. Here's what I need to be better at evangelism:**
 - a. I need to understand the Gospel better
 - b. I need more courage
 - c. I need to learn how to communicate better with non-Christians
 - d. I need to listen more to the needs of the people I'm sharing with
 - e. I need a portable PA system so I don't even have to leave my car
 - f. Other:
- 6. When some teacher or preacher says I ought to do more witnessing, I feel:**
 - a. Guilty, because I know I should
 - b. Defensive, because I think I do my share
 - c. Uncomfortable, because I really don't like to do it
 - d. Angry, because I really don't think it's all that important
 - e. Eager to do more witnessing
 - f. Happy. No reason, I just think that everyone should feel happy all the time.
 - g. Other:
- 7. It's comforting to me that:**
 - a. God gives me the words to say when I need them
 - b. My friends still like me, even if they think I am a religious fanatic
 - c. I can 'witness' by living a good Christian life, even if I don't speak loud
 - d. God has other people working for him – He's not totally dependent on me



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