

Tips for Sharing Stories of Grace

Why Testimonies? Because through testimonies:

- We exalt God. (Psalm 40, 77:10-20, Isaiah 42:10, John 4:28-29)
- We encourage one another. (Psalm 22:25, Acts 15:30-31 and 1 Peter 2:9)
- We evangelize others. (1 Chronicles 16: 24-27, Psalm 96:3-6, Isaiah 48:20, Luke 8: 38-39; 24:46-49; Acts 1: 21-22)

Remember the overarching goal of Testimonies: They are to bring glory to God.

- When thinking about encouraging someone to share a testimony – it should be less about who we were and what we did, and more about Who Christ is and what He's done for us.
- A good testimony will clearly tell others who God is and what God's like by sharing what God's done.

How to craft a testimony

- Some questions to think through when thinking about your faith story:
 - Who introduced you to Christ?
 - Was there a moment when you felt your faith became your own?
 - Was there an internal question or challenge that invited to go deeper into your faith?
 - During a time of extreme emotion – grief, joy, distress – did your faith sustain you?

When to introduce Testimonies in your church

- Think seasonally.
 - Advent – A time of preparation, new birth, anticipation of Christ's coming again.
 - Epiphany – The focus is on the disciple's growing awareness of who Jesus is as Lord
 - Lent – A time to repent and share how a life has been turned around by Christ
 - Easter – Resurrection, new life, hope, promise
 - Ordinary time – Because any time is a time to share what Christ has done.
- During Stewardship Campaigns
 - It can be encouraging to others to hear the story of why some people choose to give and invest in their church to inspire others.
- As part of Alpha, newcomers courses, confirmation and baptism prep + more!

How to share your testimony

- Testimonies can be shared out loud in the context of a small group or church service
- Testimonies can be shared in written form in a parish newsletter or eblast.

Overall – Remember God gives each of us a story to share and invites us to share!

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