

Testimony Guidelines

As a follower of Christ, sharing your personal story of how you accepted Jesus Christ should be a blessing and a privilege. FCA, as an inter-denominational ministry, provides many opportunities for staff and volunteers to communicate their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A testimony is the most common format presented.

The goal of a testimony is to introduce others to Jesus Christ. FCA is defined as a spiritually nurturing ministry— sharing Christ, not only for conversion of non-Christians, but also for the growth of believers in their daily walk in obedience to Christ. The goal, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to move people either toward the point of conversion at the cross or beyond the cross into maturing obedience in Christ.

Your Testimony Should Focus On:

1. **Your journey:** Tell how you came to know Jesus Christ personally.
2. **Three key parts:** Every testimony communicates:
 - your life before Christ.
 - how you came to Christ.
 - how you have grown in Christ.

Testimony Guidelines:

1. Know how much time you have and stay within that timeframe. The following chart breaks down each segment of your testimony, depending on the time limit.

Testimony Sequence	Time Limits		
	<u>3-5 min.</u>	<u>8-10 min.</u>	<u>15-20 min.</u>
Introduction	30 seconds	1 minute	2 minutes
Need for Christ	1 minute	2-3 minutes	4 minutes
How you came to know Christ	1 minute	2 minutes	4 minutes
Your "New Life" in Christ	1-2 minutes	2-3 minutes	3 minutes
Closing	30 seconds	1 minute	2 minutes

2. Refrain from using spiritual terminology, clichés or phrases with which the unchurched may not be familiar or cause them to be uncomfortable.
3. When using scripture references, be sure not to use too many or simply make reference. Read the whole verse(s) when appropriate, being cautious not to get caught in lengthy scripture readings. It is important to at least share the main verse(s) that had the greatest impact in your life. Use scripture to illustrate and document what has happened in your life.

4. Be careful with particular denominational issues that could become tangents to the overall purpose of your message. Any negative comments about people, churches, denominations or issues can be counterproductive.

5. Share the basics of the gospel. A good outline to follow is found in FCA's More Than Winning gospel presentation:
 - **God's Plan:** God is holy and perfect. He created us to love Him, glorify Him, and enjoy Him forever. (1 Peter 1:16b; John 10:10)
 - **Man's Problem:** Sin separates us from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:2)
 - **God's Substitute:** God provided the only way to be on His team by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as the holy and perfect substitute to die in our place. (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6)
 - **Man's Response:** It takes more than just knowing about Jesus Christ. You need to respond to His invitation and surrender your life to Christ. (John 1:12; John 5:24)

6. Conclude with the following:
 - Review the meaning of salvation. You must know you are lost to be saved. Encourage others to come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.
 - Close with a prayer of acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, so that others may have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ.