

## 30 Minutes to a Shareable Testimony

### 15 Minutes: Know Your Before, During, and After

#### *What Was Your Life Like Before You Encountered Jesus?*

1. Think about each phase of your life. What was your faith like during childhood, during your adolescent years, and now as an adult? Jot down some key points for each of these three phases.
2. Would you say you had any encounters with God or answered prayers before your conversion? Describe them. How did these influence your understanding of God?
3. Make a list of the longings and desires that shaped your journey to Christ. What obvious needs did Jesus address? Was it a sense of emptiness, a desire for forgiveness and acceptance, the longing to know God, the need to find significance, or something else? In what ways were you restless before your conversion? Try your best to describe this restlessness in terms others might recognize similarly in their lives.
4. Who were the key people or groups who influenced you to follow Jesus? How did they help you move toward Jesus? Can you remember anything specific they said or did to overcome misconceptions, help you see your need for Jesus, or unsettle your thinking? What were the pivotal moments and conversations?

#### *How Did You Meet Jesus?*

1. What were the circumstances of your life at the time when your faith became real? Try your best to describe this in terms others might recognize similarly in their lives.
2. Can you identify a specific moment or period when you welcomed Jesus in? Where did that happen? Describe what you felt and experienced. If it happened over a longer period of time, maybe pick one or two key turning points and focus on them. If your conversion occurred early in your childhood, describe a time when you think your faith became your own, made sense, or came alive.

3. If you were responding to a sermon or a Bible study, what was it about? What were the circumstances of your life that helped that message make sense?
  
4. How did your encounter with Jesus address the longings, desires, and/or restlessness you experienced prior to conversion? How would you describe the central issue or question of your journey? How did God answer this?
  
5. What was the role of Christian community in your surrendering to Jesus? How did the people you mentioned above, or perhaps a church, InterVarsity chapter, GIG, Bible study, or Christian friends play a part? How did they influence you? How did they help you understand your need for God?

***What Difference Has Following Jesus Made?***

1. If you had to tell someone why you are a Christian, what would you say?
  
2. How does knowing Jesus now compare to your previous (childhood, adolescent) faith?
  
3. How did/does knowing Jesus address the longings, desires, and restlessness that you identified previously in your life? Is it just beginning to deal with these matters, or have they been completely transformed?
  
4. How have you been changed by God? These could be subtle or obvious changes.

*Worksheet continued on next page...*

**15 Minutes: Write Concisely and Conversationally**

Use the space below to shape your notes above into a communicable story. Write no more than 100 words on each phase of your story (before, during, and after), so your total length is 300 words. This will be about three minutes long when spoken aloud.