

## What is a Testimony?

Your testimony is a story. It's your story about how Jesus saved you and gave you life.

When you make a public declaration of your faith, it's a great opportunity to share your story to encourage others and thank God for what He has done and is doing.

## How Do You Write a Testimony?

Depending on the situation, your testimony could be long and detailed or short with just the key points. For your baptism testimony, a good goal would be around 2-3 minutes (less than 500 words).

Like all good stories, your baptism testimony should have a beginning, a middle and an end. You could also think about it as having three points.

Read through the notes below and begin thinking about key points you want to share. You can use the space provided in each section to work on an outline or list some bullet points.

# **Water Baptism Outline**

# The Beginning (Point 1)

There are two ways you can go about this part. One, you can talk about your life before following Jesus. What was your life like? Were there sins or problems that you were stuck in? Was there an emptiness? A need that couldn't be filled?

Two, if you started following Jesus at a very young age, you can mention that. Talk about how you learned to follow him, but also include the sins or struggles you dealt with. Were there times you were tempted to find fulfillment in something or someone else?

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#### The Middle (Point 2)

In this section, talk about how you came to learn about Jesus and surrender your life to him. Did someone invite you to church? Did you call out to God in a moment of desperation? Was there a journey of learning about him before you committed to following Him? Share how you know that Jesus forgave you when you came to him.

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## The End (Point 3)

In the conclusion of your story, talk about how your life is different now that Jesus is a part of it. Has He freed you? Healed you? Changed your perspective? Showed you how to live differently? Filled your emptiness? How can you encourage someone else's faith because of what God has done for you?

Finally, close with a strong concluding statement emphasizing that because Jesus has forgiven your sins you have an eternal relationship with Him.

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After writing your ideas down, write out your testimony by adding in the details like you were telling someone a story. Give specific examples from your life that make the story come alive. Once you have written the first draft of your testimony, ask yourself these questions:

Did I include enough detail so the story is clear?

Did I use good transitions so the story is easy to follow?

Finally, email your draft to <u>pastorben@calvarychristian.church</u> for review.