

## “Art of Conversation” Week 2

### “Sharing Our Testimonies” Introduction

Several weeks ago, we were reminded that Jesus called his disciples to be **witnesses not attorneys** (Acts 1:8). We certainly want to be able to present a credible case for the truth claims of Christ. At the same time, sometimes rather than trying to be attorneys who defend the gospel, it is more helpful and fruitful to simply be witnesses who share our own stories of how Jesus has changed and shaped our lives. Scripture regularly calls us to “*remember the wonders the Lord has done*” (Ps 105:5), and then “*proclaim his mighty acts*” (Ps 71:16) to others.

For most of us, this will probably not be a matter of sharing our “Testimony,” as if there is one story about our lives. Very rarely will a conversation present itself where it will feel appropriate to share our one big Testimony in that sense. Instead it might be more helpful to think in terms of sharing one of our “testimonies” or stories: one of the many specific moments, events, or seasons in which God did a specific work in our lives. Many of us might not think we have a dramatic Testimony to share, but we all have various stories we can share about God’s work and faithfulness in our lives.

Therefore, rather than having a “Testimony” that we apply to every situation, it’s probably more helpful to consider a collection of stories from which we can draw during conversations with people. These would be personal stories that fit very naturally within the flow of a particular conversation since they fit the topic at hand. The work for us, then, is to remember the stories of how God has worked in our lives, celebrate those stories with God, and then share them with others (whether Christian or non-Christian) when appropriate.

Tonight, we are going to spend time remembering the stories of God’s faithful work in our lives and sharing some of those stories with each other. Hopefully, this will be helpful preparation for being faithful “witnesses” to those around us as to what God has done in our lives.

# Sharing Our Testimonies

## Solo Reflection.

Spend 15 minutes alone with these questions.

1. First, as a way to begin thinking along the lines of smaller stories, consider the past month: What is one specific way you've seen God work in your life this past month?
2. Now, consider your life as a whole. What are some specific and meaningful ways God has worked in your life? There are several ways you might think about this, so feel free to choose whichever is most helpful:
  - You might consider key people, events, life transitions, learning experiences, or Bible passages that God used in your life at just the right time.
  - You might consider the ways you've changed over the years as a result of God's work in your life. For example, moving from **fear to trust, moving from self-criticism to grace, from complaining to joy, from pride to humility, from loneliness to community, etc.** What were the moments and stories where God helped make that change in your life?
  - You might simply consider the ways God has blessed you over the years. How have you experienced his blessing and gracious presence and provision in your life?

Whichever you choose, identify up to 5 "stories" when God was real in your life and made a difference. (Feel free to use the blank space on the other sheet)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Give a "name" to each story that gets at the essence of how God worked in your life through that story (e.g. acceptance, freedom, answered prayer, suffering and hope, faithfulness, etc.).

# Sharing Our Testimonies

## Group Discussion:

Break up into groups of 3 or 4. Spend 20-30 minutes sharing answers to these questions.

- What was it like for you to reflect on specific stories of God's work in your life?
- Share at least one of your stories with your group.
- Can you envision sharing one of these stories in the context of a conversation with someone who doesn't know Jesus? What might that look like?