

## TE5.09 Giving a Testimony

(4 hours)

Apprentice:	Trainer:	Completed: / /
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Giving Testimonies have been a part of evangelism for years. Testimonies are not just to give to an audience but something that can be memorized and used in everyday conversations to our non-Christians friends. If we practice our testimony or different versions of it we can weave it into any conversation to point the person to Jesus. (Mark 5:19; 1 John 5:10)

### Exercise

Write your testimony and then write different versions of it. Give your testimony at a church event.

### Aims

1. To deliver your testimony at an event.
2. To have and know different versions of your testimony to use in everyday conversations.

### Apprentices

1. Deliver testimony at an event.
2. Use testimony in conversations with others.

### Trainers

Read through and guide Apprentice with finished product. Listen to the testimony at the event and provide feedback.

### Resources

TP5.02 Giving a Testimony MTS Discussion Paper

## Giving a Testimony – Guidelines

(TE 5.09)

Your testimony is a story. It's not just about you. It's really about Him. Jesus is the main character. Highlight Him and not yourself. Highlight your new life and not your old life.

Your testimony can be, but is more than just how you became a Christian. Your testimony shows people who God is and what he has done in your life. Your testimony is based on a theme, "God is\_\_\_\_\_."

Your listeners should walk away knowing more about who God is and how much He loves them. They should have a better idea of what it means to be a Christian.

Every good story has a crisis or problem, a hero, a battle and a victory. And your story is no exception. Keep it real and positive.

When preparing your testimony think through:

1. Who is Jesus
2. My God is...?
3. What bible verse declares this truth about who God is?
4. What event or period of my life tells this about God?

Write out this story – your testimony but aim to make it short – 3 minutes. At that length, it's easily something you can put into a conversation without it becoming a monologue.

Practice speaking your written testimony out loud. Revise your testimony, continue practicing until you have it memorized and sounding natural.

Write down your other testimonies about your walk with god and who He is so you have a repertoire of stories you can use in conversations.

### Avoid

1. Making negative statements about the Church, other Christian organizations or people
2. Preaching at people. You are sharing your story, not giving a sermon.
3. Using clichés. In particular, avoid Christian jargon that does not make sense to those outside the Christian culture.
1. Being too wordy, beating around the bush or emphasizing how bad you used to be.
2. Just tacking on a favourite verse – work in a verse only if it fits into what you are trying to communicate.

### Things to do

1. Begin with an interesting, attention-getting sentence and close with a good conclusion.
2. Consider your audience. Write and speak to communicate with the particular group you are addressing so that they are able to identify with you.
3. Give enough detail to be interesting, but, as a guideline, keep it to three minutes.
4. Edit carefully, rewrite as necessary. Memorise your testimony and practice it until it becomes natural.
5. Speak slowly (most people speed up when they are nervous). Speak loudly enough to be heard by those at the back.
6. Smile!