

Starting Your Testimony

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What is a Testimony?** Your testimony is a telling of your life story and your declaration that you want to be a part of God's Story and will seek to trust and follow Jesus all the days of your life by being a part of his body the church.
- **Why do we write a testimony?** We tell this story to the congregation as a way of declaring our trust in Jesus and our desire to partner with God's people in our congregation to continue to be a part of God's reconciling work in our world today.
- **What do I need to help me write my testimony?** First it is important to understand why we share our testimonies and what the purpose of a testimony is. You can read pages 120-130 in God's Story, Our Story, see the answers above or have further conversation with Pastor Andrea today. Second, you need time for reflection and prayer, which is why we are here today. Utilize your time to reflect on the events of your life and how you perceive God fitting into your life. Journal about the questions below – these answers will make up your testimony.
- **How long should it be?** There is no specific expectation for length – other than long enough for you to tell your faith story and declare your intentions to follow Jesus and join God's people (the church) in our mission in the world.
- **What if I am uncomfortable speaking in front of the congregation?** There are many ways to tell a story – the traditional way has been to write out your story and present it to the congregation through speaking. While there is an expectation to write out your story/testimony, if you have a creative way that you would like to share it or would like to discuss some options please speak with Pastor Andrea today.
- **What do I do after today?** Take your answers to the questions below and begin putting them together today into an order that makes sense for you. Write down your complete testimony and **turn in a draft by Sunday, June 7 – email it to andrea@mainstaycomm.net**. If you would like additional support Pastor Andrea is available and happy to work with you.

How Do I Start My Testimony?

Please write out your responses to these questions on this paper or in your journal. Be sure to include the number of the question with your response. You will use your answers to create a testimony draft.

- Start by introducing yourself and your parents
- Write small stories by filling in the blanks below with complete sentences and complete stories.
- Include your state of who Jesus is to you (we worked on this in class)

1. Using your life map: One high point in my has been....

(When was it, what was happening, why was it a high point, what were you grateful for)

2. Using your life map: One low point in my has been....

(When was it, what was happening, why was it a low point, what did you need, who was important in your life during this time, what were you grateful for)

3. My first memory of God was....

(When was it, where were you, what was happening, what did you learn about God, what did it mean to you)

4. If I had to draw a picture of God the image I would choose would be....

(Why would you choose this image, what does it say about God, what does it say about you)

5. A scripture that has been meaningful to me is...
(What does it say to you, why do you like, when did this scripture become important to you and why)

6. My favorite Bible story is...
(Why, when do you remember reading it, what does it mean to you, how has it impacted your life)

7. One faith commitment that I have made is...
(What was this commitment, when was it, why did you make this commitment, how has it impacted your life)

8. I saw God work in my life when...
(What was happening, who was involved, what did this mean to you)

9. Someone (or more than one) who helped me to know God better was...
(What is their name, what did they say or do, what did it mean for me)

10. A Biblical character I like is...
(What did they do or not do – maybe read their story again, what do they mean to you, what do they inspire you to do or not do or be)

11. One time I felt like I belonged to the church was when...
(What were you doing, who were you with, what made you feel a part of the church)

12. One thing I look forward to about continuing to be a part of the church is...

13. I want to be baptized because...

14. Why do you want to give your life to follow Jesus?

15. I would like prayer from the congregation for...

When you are done journaling about these questions, sit down at the computer and begin to type your responses and pull them together with transitions and you will have a meaningful and "long enough" testimony that you can feel confident about. If you have any questions or need help please let me know.

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