

Testimony

Justin Worden – October 14, 2009
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

John 15:26-27 = "But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry." (NLT)

I. What Is A Testimony?

a. Testimony Defined

- i. To "testify" = "to confirm, to show, to be a witness, to give evidence of something..."
- ii. Your Christian testimony (2-fold):
 1. Sharing your life-change with your words
 2. Sharing your life-change with your actions
 - a. Whether you want to or not, you are sharing your testimony daily!

b. Testimonies Compared

- i. Not one is "greater" than another...
- ii. All involve a life change by Christ (all are amazing!)
- iii. Do not be ashamed of what Christ has done
 1. "So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord..." (2 Timothy 1:8, NIV).

c. Testimonies Shared

- i. God calls us to go and share...
 1. The Great Commission = "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the

commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, NLT)

ii. God also calls us to always be prepared...

1. The Great Preparation = "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15, NIV)

II. What Is Your Testimony?

a. What's Your Story? (3 Part Saga)

- i. Part 1 = Life Before Christ
 1. How did you live for yourself before you met Christ? How did you treat people? What did you watch or listen to before your life-change? (*Living for yourself.*)
- ii. Part 2 = When/How You Met Christ
 1. What happened that caused you to meet Christ? What makes your relationship with Christ personal/important? (*Life change.*)
- iii. Part 3 = Life Since Christ
 1. What has changed? How are you different? Why do you want to live different? (*Living for Christ, not yourself.*)

b. Sharing Your Story

- i. You need to develop it
 1. Write out the 3 parts & practice them
 - a. How was your life before Christ?
 - b. What happened then?
 - c. What has changed & why it is so important?
 2. Nothing works better
 - a. When it comes to leading people to Christ, it is a fact that the most effective way is from not-yet-believers to see how it's made a difference in your life.
- ii. The Counselor will help
 1. "As the disciples spoke, the Holy Spirit would bring conviction to unbelievers about Christ. This in turn would make the disciples witnesses for Jesus" (Compact Bible Comm., pg. 756).
- iii. Testify because you've been with Him!



c. Why Share Your Story?

- i. The most important part is the "Who" you are sharing about (this is why you need to share)...

- ii. Verse 27 = "And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry." (NLT)
 - 1. It's about this Jesus who has been with you from the beginning of your new life.
 - 2. It's about this Jesus who changed your life!!! (180 degree turn!)
- iii. We "must" share... this is not optional!
 - 1. How many of us have treated Jesus' "must share" story like it's not important?

"Dear Christians:

This is my commission to you—in fact, you might even call it a great commission. You are to go to all people everywhere and call them to become my disciples. You are to baptize them and teach them to obey all that I have commanded you.

Don't forget. I will be with you always to help you, even to the end of the world. I will never leave you nor forsake you, because I love you. Please don't forsake me.

With all my love, *Jesus Christ!*

"Dear Jesus Christ:

We acknowledge the receipt of your recent communication.

Your proposal is both interesting and challenging; however, due to a shortage of personnel, as well as several other financial and personal considerations, we do not feel that we can give proper emphasis to your challenge at this time.

A committee has been appointed to study the feasibility of the plan. We should have a report to bring to our congregation sometime in the future. You may rest assured that we will give this our careful consideration, and our board will be praying for you and your efforts to find additional disciples.

We do appreciate your offer to serve as a resource person, and should we decide to undertake this project at some point in the future, we'll get back to you.

Cordially, *The Christians!*

(Hot Illustrations 1.0, "We'll Get Back To You")

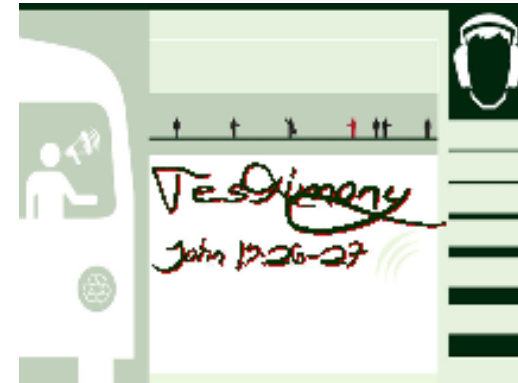
d. So... What Now?

- i. When do we share? = always!
- ii. Where do we share? = everywhere!
- iii. With whom do we share? = everyone!
- iv. Why do we share? = "they" need it!
- v. What do we share? = our story! (3-par saga)

Share your story like your life depended on it, because their lives do!

Related music = "Tell Me The Story of Jesus" (Baptist Hymnal # 122, 1991)
 Color code = [blue \(commentary/video\)](#), [red \(copyrighted quotes/story\)](#)
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Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Lesson Theme: Sharing Your Testimony

Lesson Objective: In preparation for Re:Verb (our area-wide DiscipleNow), we will focus on what a testimony is and the 3 important elements of your testimony (your life before Christ, when/how you met Christ, and life now with Christ).

Lesson Text: **John 15:26-27** = "But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry." (NLT)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What do you think it means to "testify"? ([bear witness, show](#))
- 2. The most important part of your testimony is "part 2" = when and how you met Christ as your personal Savior... please share your experience with the small group. (Practice)

Prayer Time: Ask the Lord to give you the boldness to not only know the importance of your personal testimony, but to share it with everyone you meet! They need to know too!