

## Some Tips for Staff on Sharing Your Story 9/13

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I believe sharing your story is more powerful for ministers than it is for lay people. Why? Because ministers are generally regarded as different, or a special group. Sharing your story breaks down barriers and makes connection with others. No doubt, you know how to use Scripture to lead someone to faith in Christ (and you can still do that after telling your story), but **sharing your story models it for your people** – and remember the goal: **“create and maintain a culture of witnessing and evangelism.”**

### Here are some key reminders:

1. Your story should be 3–4 minutes **maximum**. 2–3 minutes is better (you can always elaborate if the situation calls for it).
2. Your story is a “mini-autobiography” with 3 parts:
  - your life before you met Jesus (1/3 approx)
  - how you came to accept Jesus (1/3 approx)
  - your life since Jesus came in (1/3 approx).
3. Details catch attention, e.g., rather than “I grew up in a small town in South Georgia”, say “I grew up in Fitzgerald, Georgia.”
4. A good beginning (IF they know you are a minister) is “Let me tell you how I came to (*name of church*).” You will have to work **very hard** to share lots of secular things (e.g. siblings, school, sports, struggles) rather than sound preachy and overly spiritual. **This is very important!**
5. Be sure you share the full Gospel, not only that Jesus died for our sins, but that He rose again, or merely describing your salvation experience such as “I walked the aisle and trusted Jesus.” If possible, attribute the Gospel to someone sharing it with you.
6. Be appropriately transparent about your ups and downs after becoming a Christian. Share the most painful thing that has happened to you **since** you became a christian (other than a church experience).
7. A logical transition sentence when you finish is “Tell me about you.” However, **this only works** if your story has been primarily focused on secular details of your life, especially before and after accepting Jesus.



### **Humor is GREAT!**

*“It is almost impossible to not like someone who makes you laugh.” Unknown*

SUMMARY: Making your story most impactful involves “selecting events and crafting words.”

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Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions? Call or email me anytime with any of these, and also reports of sharing your story.

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### **NOTE:**

**Pastors, I strongly encourage you to send me your story to review before you share it.**