



God's Good News: how to share your story

You can use either or both of these activities to help people identify that

- i. They each have a story to share of how they came to know Jesus and how they put their trust in him.
- ii. That being able to share your story is a great way of bringing Jesus naturally into conversations and explaining the difference he's made to their lives.
- iii. It doesn't need to be difficult!

FAITH JOURNEY TIMELINE

Adapted from Stepping into Evangelism

www.churcharmy.org.uk

You will need:

- A4 sheets of paper
- Pens/pencils
- Copies of 'Sharing your story' participants sheet. 1 per person.
- Flip chart and pens

- 1) Read 1 Peter 3:15 then take a few moments to be quiet before you start this activity. *5 minutes*
- 2) Ask participants to review their life story to this point, remembering some of the key moments, milestones and events on that journey that were formational.
5 minutes
- 3) Now place each of the events/people on a timeline.

Use a sheet of A4 paper and draw a line across the middle, lengthways. Mark the key moments, milestones and events with a date and a label. Remind them that the events may be formal, such as confirmation or marriage, or they may be very personal, such as dreams or decisions. That they may include encounters with particular people. *10 minutes*

Spiritual History Timeline:

DOB | _____ | Today's date

- 4) Ask participants to consider when they encountered God during these key moments and if they influenced their understanding of him. *5 minutes*
- 5) In small groups share together any people or groups who pointed them towards Jesus? How did they do this? How did they challenge their existing thinking? Ask a group member to note common themes. *5 to 10 minutes*
- 6) Feedback into whole group. Note on Flip chart paper any common themes. *5 to 10 minutes*
- 7) Hand out, Share your story, and ask participants to fill it in. *5 to 10 minute)*



Have some time to share what people found particularly encouraging or difficult about the activity. What resources might they need moving forward?

Encourage participants to write out their story/testimony on the back of a post card and then to bullet point it onto a post-it note. Our story needs to be short, sharp and to the point!

Make sure that observations, needs are documented and kept safe for reference. These insights can aid the development of a future Parish plan.

TO EXPLORE KEY EVENTS ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

Adapted from Core Skills Training.

You will need:

- A box of long matches.
 - Scrap paper and pens
1. Ask each person to think of a Christian who has inspired them and helped them move forward in their faith journey personally and to reflect on why they were so significant. They might like to jot down a few notes.
 2. Each person in turn takes and lights a match and then that person has the time it takes for the match to burn down (20-30 seconds) to talk to the rest of the group about that particular Christian.
 3. This can also be used to share significant events or specific Bible stories that have had an impact on the person's faith journey.

Questions

- 1) If you have chosen to talk about significant people, discuss together similarities between the stories told.
- 2) What attributes did these people have in common?
- 3) Can those attributes be nurtured and developed in us?
- 4) How might we help one another to be positive influencers on the faith journeys of others?
- 5) As a Parish what opportunities do we already have or could we develop that might help others to explore and move forward on their own journey of faith?

Make sure that observations, ideas for future activities and needs are documented and kept safe for reference. These insights can aid the development of a future Parish plan.