

My next steps of growth

Share your vision for moving forward.

Based on what I've learned I...

Share how you have seen God at work in your life.

God is working in me to ...

Share how you feel sharing joys and concerns with others.

As a result I...

Share what surprised or concerned you.

One of the biggest surprises through this process has been...

Share how others can pray with you on your faith journey

I ask you to pray that...

God's work in and through me

Describe how God might use your story to impact others.

God is challenging me to...

Making your story accessible to others is another growth step. You might choose to share what you've created in community worship...or in a small group...or in your family...or with a mentor or spiritual companion.

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 THESSALONIANS 15:11



Your Story

An Account of Transformation

Stories carry power. We often connect with stories on a deep level. Jesus knew this. Jesus used stories in his ministry in life-changing ways.

Department of Christian Formation
The Evangelical Covenant Church
Website: www.covchurch.org/formation
For information: Covenant Resource Center (800) 338-IDEA
To order: www.covenantbookstore.com

Why Share Your Story?

Have you ever thought about how you would explain God to someone who had no pre-conceived ideas? How would you give someone a fuller picture of God? Our individual stories are each a part of God's larger story. By sharing your story well, you reveal God's character and share his story with others. The process of discovering and defining your story allows you, as a follower, to become more aware of God's faithful work in and through your life. This can lead you to be more grateful for the ways God has worked in your life, preparing you and allowing you the freedom to share *Your Story*, God's story, with others.

Preparing Your Story

As you prepare to tell your faith story, begin with a time of reflection.

Reflect on coming to faith

- What brought you to faith?
- Were there questions or life issues that caused you to turn to God for answers?
- How did the questions/life issues affect you, your walk with God, other relationships, or your involvement with others?

Consider what you've learned

- Reflect on the process you went through to deal with your questions/life issues. How did that process impact your daily walk?
- Were there people, experiences, particular segments of God's word that helped you through this time?
- Has there been a surprise (good or bad) or something new you've learned during this time of growth?
- Reflect on what you've learned about yourself, God, others, the church, etc.

Consider God's Story

- Reflect on how your story belongs in God's story.
- Are there themes or characters in God's story/word that have shaped your story?

Refine your next steps

- What practices, people, or experiences are helping you move forward in your faith journey with Christ?
- Reflect on whether you feel equipped to help others with similar faith issues.

- How do God's people continue to help you grow? In what ways do they hinder your growth?

Remember God's work in and through you

- Give a "snapshot" of your life. Where do you see God at work? Where are you encouraged? Where are you challenged?
- What motivates you. How do you see God at work in the details of your life?
- What helps you stay on track, reflecting God in all you do and say?

Sharing Your Story

As you share your story, portray a realistic picture of your faith walk—the tough times as well as times of joy.

Be creative! Consider multiple approaches: written or spoken storytelling, artwork, poetry, dance, drama, music, video...be creative! The very process of putting your story into one of these forms is itself a spiritual experience.

Consider the following sentences as you begin constructing your story. You may want to write out your testimony on a piece of paper. You DO NOT have to use these sentences in your testimony. This is a guide, not a form. Which sentences truly capture your heart? Which ones present the best picture of your story?

Coming to faith

Hi, my name is _____, and this is my story of ways/how God is teaching me.

Share a question or life issue you've been reflecting on or struggling with.

Recently I...

Share how the question/issue has affected you, your relationships, your activities, etc.

Because of this I've been...

Share how the question/issue has affected your walk with God positively or negatively.

And, as a result, my time with God has been...

What I've learned

What were your first steps toward growth?

But then I heard/read/learned/saw...

Describe how God, a circumstance, or a person helped you discover next steps or commitment.

As a result I...

Detail what you learned about yourself, God, the Bible, others, etc.

Some of the things I learned were...

Integrating God's story

Share who helped you and what Bible verse/story/incident got your attention.

A big help during this time was...

Select a biblical character you identified with and share how this person's story influenced your story.

Reading God's word helped me to...