



DNA Evangelism Homework- Week One

Part One-

Writing Your Testimony

Instructions- Write out your personal testimony and practice saying it to a friend or two. It should be no longer than 3 minutes spoken. Below are some tips.

Part Two-

Evangelist research

Instructions- Look on your nametag from class and research the name of the person below your name. Find 1-2 things that made this person a powerful evangelist, and name how we can implement these qualities into our own daily lives.

- Email dna@cccsandiego.com if you have questions.
- Email your Homework to dna@cccsandiego.com or fax to the church office at 760-804-8527. Homework is due by SUNDAY night.
- Bring your written testimony and your evangelist research to class on Tuesday night.

Writing your Testimony

Before You Start

1. Ask God to guide you in your preparation.
2. Be honest in your statements and don't exaggerate either the positive or the negative aspects of your story.
3. Be careful not to criticize other people or denominations or make any other negative remarks in your story. God has lifted YOU up, so don't bring anyone else down.
4. Shy away from using any religious jargon.
5. Aim eventually to have two versions of your story; a three minute one and a ten minute one. You can then adapt to the circumstances, according to which version is appropriate for the occasion.
6. Make sure your testimony is concise and to the point.
7. When you have written your story, practice reading it over in front of a sympathetic friend who can give you positive feedback.

Section One - My Life Before I Became A Christian

Some people have a sudden conversion experience. For others, it can happen over a period of time without a clear pinpointed date. Whichever way your conversion occurred, try and recall here what your life was like before. What attitudes did you display? What were your behavior and feelings about life?

Section Two - How I Came To Realize I Needed Jesus

Include here what made you turn to Jesus. Did you have a need that Jesus met? Were you at the end of your tether and couldn't go on? Was the process a long or a short one? Make it clear in your story that becoming a Christian was entering into a relationship with Christ, not just subscribing to some set of principles or way of living

How I Became A Christian

Explain exactly what brought you to the point where you gave your life over to Jesus. What specific step did you take to become a Christian? Was it a sudden transformation or was it a long process?

Section Three - What Being A Christian Means Now

What difference has becoming a Christian made to your life? What are the highlights? Has there been a price to pay in relationships? Based on your experience to date, explain why you would encourage others to become a Christian too.

Things to Consider for your testimony

Were you raised in a Christian environment or not?

Were you raised something different than a Christian? If so, what? Did you always believe there is a God, or not?

What did you think about GOD when you were growing up?

Keep it Real

Remember your testimony is essentially for non Christians who are trying to find out if God is real or not, and if this Jesus Christ is truly someone they want to ask to be their Savior or not. Explain what you thought about him when you were young. If He's real to you now, give them all the struggles you went through to come to this place where you know He's real . . . not just "think" He's real.

"If Jesus is real, and He's the best God to serve, give them some times in your life when you doubted like they are doubting. Anybody can believe anything about God. Tell them times when God moved in your life so that they can have some hope that He might do the same in their life.

Personal Examples

"Tell them about the supernatural experiences God has given you. Tell them about the times that you were angry or bitter or frustrated with God. Be real with them. Tell them about your God encounters. ***They want to know the exciting highlights about how God has worked in your life.*** Good for you that you got "saved", but what has it done for you that they can get excited about?"

Please keep in mind: we would rather have a testimony that is too ***long***, rather than too short. We can always shorten a testimony, but we can't ***lengthen*** it. Only you can do that.

Share with Passion

Another way of saying it is that people get more excited in listening to you and I when we are passionate about what we are talking about. Passion involves strong feelings and intense emotions. When we testify, God wants us to be passionate about what we have to say. It's the most effective tool a successful communicator has at his or her disposal. God invented "passion", and He has no problem with His people having a monopoly on it.

A Bride and her Wedding Day?

Telling your testimony should be like a bride sharing about her wedding day. She wants to show her friends all the wedding pictures. She wants to describe the details behind each picture. She wants to communicate to everyone who will listen how special that day was to her, and she will, if you give her a chance. *Why? Because it was the most important day of her life!*

*Paint the **best** picture in the mind of the reader or listener that you can!* Words are "brush strokes" of the artist to the mind of your reader or listener.

Make an Art of it

Few skilled artists want to paint pictures just for the sake of painting beautiful pictures. They want to trigger the ***emotions of the heart*** of everyone who sees that painting. They want people to see that painting in their soul every moment the rest of their lives. A skilled artist knows that if they can stir your emotions *strongly and favorably*, they have accomplished their purpose.

Practice Makes Perfect

God would have us strive to become masterful artists as we share our testimonies. (It should be the most *important* and *exciting* story we have to tell!) Telling them in such a way that they stir the depths of emotion in the reader or hearer. Yet we must remind ourselves that it takes time to become a skilled artist. It is not learned in one day. A painter has to paint and keep painting, learning what others know, and developing their knowledge and skills.

A skilled testifier does the same thing. It starts by putting words on paper. The words will get changed -- added on to -- deleted -- over time until a roughly formed testimony eventually gets transformed into "a piece of art" that stirs the emotions of everyone who is privileged to hear it.

Ask God

Like any other craft, it takes work to make words stir emotions. It is our prayer that you will choose to go to God and ask Him for help in teaching you how to share your testimony in such a way that it will burn a hole in the soul of every person who reads or hears it. The challenge is to get the details mixed with passionate emotion out of your heart and onto paper.

Giving Birth?

Another good illustration of sharing one's testimony *effectively* is to listen to a mother share her experience of giving birth to her first child. It was a moment in her life she will never forget, and everybody needs to hear about it! She'll share what was happening before she got to the hospital. She'll share what happened during delivery.

She'll share the pain and the joy of living through the experience, and you'll see the glow come back to her face, as she relives the experience as she shares. Women have an inborn ability to share experiences such as this with strong feeling and emotion, but *both* men and women can communicate in this way

when they share the facts of their "spiritual rebirth encounter with Him." So strive to draw people into your experience, so *they* won't forget it either.

IMPORTANT TIP: Having a *person* in mind when you write can be most helpful.

BEFORE Questions:

Give details of your life **before** you became serious about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. What type of environment were you raised in? What were your beliefs about God? What were your beliefs about the Bible? What did the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the cross mean to you? What was your understanding of this sacrifice for your sins?

DURING Questions - (The BORN AGAIN Process):

Your number one purpose for testifying is to give God glory for what He has done in your life.

Many people's actions spring out of their unsatisfied, deep inner needs. Did you have some unsatisfied, deep inner need/s that the Holy Spirit used to draw you to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

Here are some examples:

Lack of peace. Fear of death/hell. Something missing-void in your life. No meaning to life. Loneliness. Lack of security. Poverty. Lack of purpose. Longing to be loved. Longing to be unconditionally accepted. No real friends. No motivation. Alcohol or chemical dependencies. Eating disorders. Guilt from sin. Hopelessness- prison. Boredom with religion. Demonic activity in your life. Need of deliverance-healing. Hunger to know God better.

AFTER Questions and Thoughts:

As you write your testimony ... be sensitive to the Holy Spirit about interweaving scripture into your testimony. Use a Bible translation that is easy to understand.

How did God become *real* and *alive* in your life?

Being transparent – being real – being humble and appreciative and thankful . . . gives God the quality of testimony He desires you share on His behalf.

Here are some more ideas to get you thinking about writing your testimony

Before I received Christ, I lived and thought this way:

- What did my life revolve around?
- What issues or things were important to me?
- What did I think of God? Of Jesus?
- On what did I rely for security and happiness?

How I received Christ: Paint a "word picture" of the situation.

- Where were you? Alone in your room? Driving in your car? At a church service?
- What thoughts went through your mind?

- What feelings did you struggle with just before your decision?
- How did you yield your life to Christ? What did you say?

After I received Christ, these changes took place:

- Did you struggle with your faith?
- How did God answer prayer, or strengthen you in difficult situations?
- How are you different than you were before?
- How have the changes in your life influenced others around you?

Do's and Don'ts of a strong personal testimony

Do

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write (James 1:5-6).
2. Follow the three-part outline shown above (A. Your life before Christ, B. How You came to know Him, and C. How things are now).
3. Emphasize the final point (how things are now) if you became a Christian as a small child.
4. Begin with an interesting, attention-getting sentence and close with a strong conclusion. Make sure you tie everything together. Include relevant, thought-provoking facts and experiences.
5. Write in such a way that others will feel associated with you in past and present experiences. Talk about things others can relate to.
6. Give enough details to arouse interest.
7. Use at least one, but at the most two, Scripture verses.
8. Edit carefully and rewrite as often as necessary.
9. Have someone else look it over, and welcome their comments, even if some of those are critical. It may be difficult to accept criticism, but seeking sincere feedback is a sign of wisdom.

Don't Do

1. Don't use Christian "jargon." Avoid the following words, which do not communicate truth to the average non-Christian. Though these words and phrases are precious to us, they are often misunderstood and consequently ridiculed by non-Christians: saved, convicted, converted, born again, washed by the blood of the lamb.
2. Don't be too wordy, beat around the bush, or emphasize how bad you used to be. People feel uncomfortable if you dwell on it.
3. Don't speak with too many glittering generalities or superlatives.
4. Don't mention church denominations, especially in a negative way. Never speak critically or negatively about any other individual or group.

5. Don't give the impression that the Christian life is a "bed of roses."
6. Don't preach to people. Make it a testimony, not a "preachimony."