

My Story with God

Telling your story with God in a compelling way

Keep in mind from the start

Your story matters to God. He knows how your story has unfolded, and He knows what he would like to see in the next chapters. He will help you identify what has been most significant up to now.

Your story matters to you – and others. God called you into life by name. He set you on a path and has been with you throughout, whether you were always aware of Him or not. Your story is like an intricate tapestry. As you ponder it, you can become more aware of the lessons and the themes woven into it. Be assured that God will give you opportunities to share your story, or parts of it, with others, in ways that might help open them up to His grace. The story of how God has worked in a person's life often has more impact than all the persuasive arguments in the world.

1. *Yours is a unique story...and you are a unique storyteller.* No one can tell your story like you can.
2. *Be yourself.* Since you are the author of this story (well, co-author, with God), be authentic.
3. *God will help you.* He has a vested interest in your story and how it is told.

Putting it Together

1. *The substance:* consider, in chronological order, three occasions in your history where your relationship with God was changed in one way or another.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
2. *The telling:* these events, while the heart of your story, need next to be conveyed in an interesting and lively way. To do this, consider these elements:
 - Though your whole life is the story with God, limit yourself to the key “chapters.”
 - Use enough detail to paint a mental picture for the hearer, one that puts him in the story along with you and God. For example: Who was there? What were the surroundings? What was said or done, and by whom? Where was God?
 - At the same time, avoid irrelevant tangents. While detail is important, not every detail is relevant.
 - [Avoid mentioning the details of any specific sins, particularly sexual sins. It is sufficient to state, for example, that you were “headed down the wrong path.”]
 - Bring each chapter or event to a conclusion: how was God present and active?
3. *The conclusion:* Summarize your life story with God in a sentence, phrase, or even a word.

Tell the Story!

- Take five minutes and tell these chapters of your story to your neighbor.
- Take five minutes and listen to the story of your neighbor.

***NOTE:** *Please respect confidentiality throughout this process, and refrain from sharing names or identities that might be embarrassing or awkward.*