

SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING A PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST

Why Write A Testimony?

One of the things we ask people to do as they go through the membership process at Harvest Church is to write a short personal testimony of faith (How you became a Christian). To some, this will come easily. To others, this seems like a daunting request. We want to encourage you in whatever response you have, as there is immense value in writing your testimony. Writing your testimony will not only encourage other believers who read about God's work in your life and help the congregation get to know you, but it will also better prepare you for evangelism. When you become a member of a church family you are publicly professing that you have put your trust in Jesus and want to live your life for him.

Different Testimonies, Yet One Focus

There is no strict formula for people to follow as they write out their testimony. God, in his grace, acts in many ways to bring sinners with different backgrounds, personalities, and gifts to faith in Christ. For example, though Peter and Paul believed the same gospel, the testimony of Peter, an uneducated fisherman who spent three years traveling with Jesus, was much different from Paul's, an educated Pharisee and persecutor of the church. In a similar way, your testimony will have unique features and a unique expression.

Though testimonies may differ in the details and the way in which they are told, all Christian testimonies should have one thing in common: the goal of your testimony should be to glorify Jesus. Christian testimonies glorify Jesus when they describe and rejoice in who Jesus is and what he has done in your life. Make Jesus the hero of your testimony and as you write marvel at the grace and mercy of God in your life!

Encouragement As You Write

The following questions are meant to help you think through what you believe about Jesus and how he brought you to trust in him. These questions are not meant as a rigid guide that you must follow but rather something to stimulate your reflections.

- What do you believe about Jesus? Who is he?
- When did you first learn about God and Jesus?
- How did God lead you to believe that Jesus was real?
- When did you realize that you were a sinner and would be judged?
- What led you to believe you needed Jesus?
- What Bible verse or passage did God use to show your sin and need? What verse or passage did He use to show you that Jesus was the Savior?
- Who did God use in your life to lead you to faith in Christ?
- What was the Holy Spirit's role in your coming to faith?

