

## Testimony Planning Guide Handout

Use this Testimony Planning Guide to help you organize and prepare to share your story. You may also find a quick review of the Testimony Guide video to be helpful.

### **I WAS...**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I grew up in \_\_\_\_\_.

Before giving my heart to God, my life/heart was \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. I believed I would be happy if I \_\_\_\_\_.

For example, it wouldn't be uncommon for me to \_\_\_\_\_ try to fill the emptiness in my heart. After a while, my behavior began to make me feel \_\_\_\_\_ and that wasn't working for me.

### **SAMPLE: I WAS...**

My name is Miles McPherson and I grew up in Long Island, New York.

Before giving my heart to God, my life/heart was empty and lost, searching for purpose.

I believed I would be happy if I was good at football, got high on drugs, and dated girls.

For example, it wouldn't be uncommon for me to get high every day and workout five to six days a week to try to fill the emptiness in my heart. After a while, my behavior began to make me feel hopeless and lost, and that wasn't working for me.

### **THEN, JESUS...**

At this point in my life, my belief about God was \_\_\_\_\_.

But it wasn't until I heard (or experienced) \_\_\_\_\_ and that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ that I began to consider trusting God with my life.

I finally decided that I wanted to receive Jesus as my savior, so when I was \_\_\_\_\_, I proceeded to \_\_\_\_\_.

Afterwards, I didn't view \_\_\_\_\_ as my ultimate source of happiness anymore. I now know that the only way to finally receive joy and contentment is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **SAMPLE: THEN, JESUS...**

At this point in my life, my belief about God was that He loved me, but I only understood it in the context of religion. But it wasn't until I heard (or experienced) the gospel and that Jesus wanted to have a relationship with me that I began to consider trusting God with my life. I finally decided that I wanted to receive Jesus as my Savior, so when I was lying on my couch at five in the morning, I proceeded to pray and ask him to forgive me.

Afterwards, I didn't view drugs, football, and dating as my ultimate source of happiness anymore. I now know that the only way to finally receive joy and contentment is by obeying Jesus with all my heart.

### **SINCE THEN...**

In my old life, before trusting God, I found comfort, identity, and fulfillment in \_\_\_\_\_ and used to take every opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_.

After I received Jesus, the things I did with my time completely \_\_\_\_\_ changed. Now I \_\_\_\_\_.

My life has changed dramatically. Though I may still struggle with things, they're getting better, and I'm different in so many ways, such as \_\_\_\_\_.

### **SAMPLE: SINCE THEN...**

In my old life, before trusting God, I found comfort, identity, and fulfillment in the things that I did to please myself and used to take every opportunity to get high on drugs and satisfy the appetite of my pride and ego.

After I received Jesus, the things I did with my time completely changed. Now I spend as much time as I can developing my relationship with Christ and trying to help others get to know Him. My life has changed dramatically. Though I may still struggle with things, they're getting better, and I'm different in so many ways, such as learning to allow God to teach me to be patient and content in his love for me versus trying to earn it through accomplishment.

**ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OTHERS**

Let me encourage you to trust God with your life. He has been so faithful to me and has never \_\_\_\_\_ but has always \_\_\_\_\_ and I know He will do the same with you.

**SAMPLE: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OTHERS**

Let me encourage you to trust God with your life. He has been so faithful to me and has never let me down but has always been faithful to meet all of my needs and always right on time, and I know He will do the same for you.  
\_\_\_\_\_.