

TELL THE JESUS STORY WELL – PART IV
“The Testimonial Approach”

Acts 22:1-1

Everybody meets Jesus in a unique way. Circumstances vary from person to person in that some people meet Jesus through a painful situation, some people meet Jesus when things are going well. Some people meet Jesus later in life while other meet Jesus in their teenage years. The testimonial approach to sharing the Jesus story involves telling your personal experience about how you came to meet Jesus and become his disciple. Today’s teaching will look at the apostle Paul’s testimony.

#1. SAUL’S LIFE BEFORE MEETING JESUS, vv. 1-5

- A. Saul is Jewish - born in Tarsus of Cilicia
- B. Saul studied Torah under Gamaliel in Jerusalem
- C. Saul is zealous for God as is his audience
- D. Saul persecuted Christians to the death
- E. Saul regarded Jesus as a Jewish heretic
- F. Saul had clout with the authorities
- G. Saul was on a search & destroy mission to Damascus

CONSTRUCTING YOUR TESTIMONY
YOUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

1. Summarize the _____ things about your life
2. Give people a _____ of who you are
3. Know your _____

#2. SAUL’S INTRODUCTION TO JESUS, vv. 6-11

- A. Saul was near Damascus at noon
- B. Saul saw the light of Jesus & fell down
- C. Saul heard Jesus: Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?
- D. Saul’s question: Who are you Lord? Answer: I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting
- E. Saul’s friends didn’t understand the voice
- F. Saul is told to get instructions in Damascus
- G. Saul is blind and led by his friends

CONSTRUCTING YOUR TESTIMONY
YOUR INTRODUCTION TO JESUS

1. Provide the _____ of your meeting Jesus
2. How did you _____ Jesus?
3. What did you immediately _____?
4. What were you _____ about the experience?

#3. SAUL’S LIFE AFTER MEETING JESUS, vv. 12-16

- A. Saul is visited by Ananias & receives his sight after 3 days
- B. Saul is called brother – he is part of God’s family
- C. Saul is informed of his calling from the Lord
- D. Saul will be a witness to all people for Jesus
- E. Saul is baptized into the body of Christ

CONSTRUCTING YOUR TESTIMONY
YOUR LIFE AFTER YOU MET JESUS

1. What _____ did you have about Jesus?
2. What new _____ began?
3. What is the _____ that God has on your life?
4. What _____ ties your testimony together?

ANSWERS: Essential, Clear Picture, Audience, Context, Meet, Experience, Thinking, Reflections, Relationships, Calling, Theme.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why is it important to be prepared to share your testimony if someone asks you about your faith? (1 Peter 3:15)
- 2) Do you find it difficult to share your testimony?
- 3) What observations can you make about Paul's life before becoming a Christian?
- 4) What did you find fulfillment in before you became a disciple of Christ?
- 5) Why did Paul persecute Christians to the death?
- 6) What observations can you make about Saul when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus?
- 7) Why do you think Saul was struck with blindness for 3 days?
- 8) What do you think was going through Saul's mind during his three days of reflection before he regained his sight?
- 9) What was it like when you met Jesus?
- 10) How did Saul's life change after meeting Jesus?
- 11) How did your life change after meeting Jesus?
- 12) What is your takeaway from this teaching?

Welcome to Hillcrest Church

Love, Acceptance, Forgiveness!

*our gospel came to you not simply with words but
also with power, with the Holy Spirit
and deep conviction.*

1 Thessalonians 1:5

*January 29, 2023
Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Thank you for visiting us this morning. We hope you have a blessed time of worship.

NEXT WEEK, FEBRUARY 5TH – OUR ANNUAL VISION SERVICE

We are having a special service that will focus on the vision for the new year, followed by a potluck celebration. You don't want to miss this!

FEBRUARY 19TH – CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE FOR JUDAH OLSEN

After the service the Hillcrest family will celebrate the new born life of Judah. We rejoice with Aaron, Melissa and Kharis over the birth of their son. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Any questions call Kathy Brooks 916-847-8123

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks

Bible Study: Wednesday at 6:30pm with Pastor Bruce. Go to the online meeting room on our website (hillcrestRoseville.com) to access the gathering.

PROJECT "WINDOW 23"

\$5,000 for the new windows

\$300 donated

\$2,700 remaining

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com).

Telling the Jesus Story Well! Specialized Training

Beginning

February 15th, Wednesday at 6:30pm, in Zoomland

Ending March 15th

Team Teaching by pastor Bruce, Paul & Pat Milton

In 2023 Hillcrest is focusing on reaching out to our community.

We are offering interactive training to do this, which will include but not be limited to:

- ♣ Discussing the components of the gospel
- ♣ Discussing the Scriptural basis of the gospel
- ♣ Discussing different approaches to sharing the gospel
- ♣ How to craft your own gospel presentation
- ♣ How to craft your own testimony
- ♣ How to answer objections to the gospel
- ♣ How to engage people in a spiritual discussion
- ♣ How to invite someone to church
- ♣ How a church can be present in a community

You are invited! We are gearing up for a new adventure and would love to have you be involved in the training.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

We want to represent Jesus well!