



Sharing Your Faith Story

“Be transparent.” We hear that tossed around a lot these days — but it’s true. You have got to tell your faith story, but not in the traditional “Sunday School” fashion.

Tell your faith story in full disclosure mode. **Be transparent.** People are hungry for another person to be real with them, to share failures as well as successes, and to be open about your humanity. And more than anything, they need to hear how Jesus has truly changed your life, how you interact with Him every day, how He’s changed you, and how you continue to grow (and struggle) even now.

This is the most important piece of your first meeting. You will set the tone and determine the level of transparency of your group by how you share your story. We cannot stress that enough.

It is critical that everyone in the group is there for your first meeting to hear it in its entirety. How deep they go, how open they are with you and each other, will be determined in large part by how deep you go and how open you are.

What follows here is taken from the handout you’ll print out for your group members at your first meeting. We’ve provided it here in case you need the blueprint to get ready to give your faith story.

Remember that what’s said in the group stays in the group.

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| Before | Describe your life before Christ: growing up, failures, doubts, family issues, relational issues. None of us has had it totally together, so be transparent. What did you struggle with? |
| Need | Describe what happened that led you to discover your need for God. This can be anything from a dramatic “then God” moment to a time when god’s love overwhelmed you. Don’t make your story anything other than what it is, but don’t hold back. Be real. Be transparent. Tell it all. The others will know you are being authentic and will connect with you, even more so as you show how “human” you are. |
| Encounter | Describe the events surrounding your conversion. What were the specific circumstances in the 24 hours surrounding your crossing the line of faith? Be specific. It builds credibility. People want to hear REAL stories from REAL people. Again, your story is your story, but don’t hold anything back. |
| After | Describe your life since. What happened next? How did you change? How did god reveal Himself to you? What has been your faith walk since? Where is your husband/wife in all this? Your kids? What do you struggle with now? What is God doing in your life today? |

Now that you’ve shared your life with the group, open the floor for questions and encouragement.