



Your Story

LEADER'S NOTES

PURPOSE

This training helps women communicate how they began a relationship with Jesus and how it has affected their lives. Women learn how to share their story naturally and then invite their friend to consider life with Jesus.

USES

One-on-one, small group, or large-group training event. If you are presenting in a large group, be sure to allow time for participants to share in small groups.

TIME

Approximately 30 minutes one-on-one; workshop 1 - 1 ½ hours

PREPARATION

Before you train others, go through the slides and participant worksheet with a friend so you can comfortably articulate your own story. Your role as the facilitator is to help women think through their story and write it out simply. You can model by using examples from your own story.

Overview of Slides

Slide 2: Open by asking, *“Do you believe God can use your story in powerful ways? Can someone share an example of when he has done that?”* Read the Scripture (John 4:39, NIV).

Slide 3: Pray for your time together.

Slide 4: Read through the numbered points and ask, *“What can you add to this list?”*

Slide 5: Direct the women to the worksheet and cards you gave them. They will use the cards to begin writing their story. Point them to card No. 4 – Jesus. Read the question, *“What characteristic of Jesus means the most to you and why? In one to two sentences, use the characteristic to connect a life moment.”*

To guide them, give your personal example or read this one: *“I identify Jesus as my closest friend who loves me for who I am because when I felt alone and ashamed, he was there.”*

After a few minutes ask, *“Who would like to share your example?”* This sharing provides a great bonding experience and in smaller groups everyone could share.

TRAINING PACKET CONTENTS

- PowerPoint slides
- Leader's Notes
- Participant worksheet and cards

Slide 6: Direct the women to card No. 3 – change. Read the question, “How has your life changed because of Jesus?” Read the key points listed on the slide. Encourage women to tie their answer to the characteristic they chose in the previous slide.

Give your personal example or read this one: *“I went through a difficult time where I felt rejected by all. Even though God did not take away the pain, I experienced his love and forgiveness. He helped me apologize to those I had hurt.”*

After a few minutes ask, “Would anyone like to share your life-change story?” Again, this is a great bonding experience. If everyone wants to share, allow the time.

Explain in your own words the importance of avoiding Christian language that confuses non-Christians. From the list below, read aloud a few examples that stand out to you and provide the alternatives. Ask, “What words would you try to avoid and what words would you use to you replace them?”

CHANGE: use different words	
AVOID USING	POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES
Saved	Became a follower of Jesus
Convicted	Sensed a need to change
Born again	Began a relationship with God
Sanctified/Redeemed	Life was changed
Lost	Did not have hope
Reconciled	Brought together
Receive/accept Christ	Follow Jesus
Walking with the Lord	Know Jesus
Grew up in a Christian home	My parents taught me about God
Redeemed	Life-changed
Sin	Brokenness (or define sin)
Eternal	Hope for life after I die
Blessed	Content

Slide 7: Direct the women to card No. 2 – how. Ask, “How did you become a follower of Jesus? Take this time to share how you first heard the Gospel. Explain it the way you understood it and how you responded.”

Explain that it’s important for the women to tie the Gospel to their story so that it is natural and makes sense. For example, before jumping into the Gospel, they may want to ask their friend if it’s OK to share more.

Have the participants think of an example of how the Gospel has made a difference in their lives. Give your personal example or read this one:

“As Jesus made himself real to me, I began to understand my life. My mentor explained that Jesus experienced life on earth like me but he lived perfectly. Knowing this, I couldn’t ignore my shame and wrongdoing. Jesus’ death offered forgiveness so I could be free from shame and regret. When he rose from the dead, it enabled me to raise from the dead places in my life.”

TIP

If you’re training a group, have women get in pairs for this slide. If you’re online or on the phone, allow time for questions. If you’re one-on-one, help the woman think through how to tie her story to the Gospel.

Move to slide 8 before giving women time to work on their own Gospel example.

Slide 8: This slide explains the Gospel and why the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ make it possible for us to have new life through a relationship with him.

Mention that the wording on the slide suggests one way to share the Gospel using language for today's culture. Remind women to put the Gospel in their own words so that it sounds natural as it relates to their story.

Allow a few minutes for women to work on their "how" card. This card may take the longest to complete.

Offer a conversational tip: *"When you are finished sharing the Gospel, ask your friend something like, 'Jesus has brought healing to my life. How could he do the same for you?'"*

Allow one or more women to share if you have time.

Slide 9: Direct the women to card No. 1 – before. Ask, *"What was your life like before you became a follower of Jesus?"* Read the word "consider" and the two points listed under it on the slide. Give your personal example or read this one: *"I had an addiction and it affected everyone I loved. Because of my choices, I was completely alone."*

Give a few minutes for the women to write.

Slide 10: Have the women arrange their cards in numerical order: 1 – before; 2 – how; 3 – change; 4 – Jesus. Say, *"As you read your cards in that order, you'll realize this is now your story. Take a few minutes to reflect on your story."*

If you're in a small group or on the phone, ask if anyone would like to read her cards out loud, in order.

If you're in person with a group, have the women break up in pairs and share their stories with one another. Ask them to provide feedback to each other about the story length, the clarity of the Gospel, and especially the use of "Christianese" – words unfamiliar to seekers.

Explain these helpful ideas:

- Practice with another believer.
- Engage your friend with questions. Keep it conversational!
- Use Scripture if it's natural and relates to your story.
- Avoid religious language.
- Focus less on self and more on Jesus.

Slide 11: Direct women to stonecroft.org for more evangelism training resources.

Close: Ask the women for feedback about the training. Challenge them to practice sharing their story with a close friend during the next week.

Close in prayer. You may pray or ask one of the participants to do so.