

APPENDIX A: SHARING TESTIMONIES

DEVELOPING YOUR TESTIMONY

A testimony is the spiritual story of your life. It highlights the events God has used to shape your character and it helps others to know you. The testimony process gives insight into how God has designed you and worked in your life, and where he is leading you. It will also help your group members get to know one another. Below are a couple of different ways to develop your testimony:

TESTIMONY – OPTION #1: REFLECT, ANALYZE, ORGANIZE

Use these three steps to help you develop and communicate your testimony:

STEP 1: REFLECT

Prayerfully consider people, places, and events that have marked your life. Make a list. Be sure to use the Testimony Worksheet on the next page to help you categorize your thoughts. The terms on the worksheet identify categories and describe things to include. Ask yourself the questions for each category and fill in the worksheet.

STEP 2: ANALYZE

Now that you have reflected over your life—your heritage, heroes, high points, hard times, and “hand of God” moments—it’s time to analyze which of these you want to share in your testimony. While it would be nice to share everything, focus on the most significant influences and experiences in your life. Spend some time praying through what you have listed. What you choose is totally up to you.

STEP 3: ORGANIZE

Now try to synthesize this information into a logical flow of thought. How do these people, places, and events fit together? If you think of your testimony as a puzzle, you have gathered the pieces in steps 1 and 2. Now it is time to assemble the puzzle in a way that helps others understand your life and background.

TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

NAME:	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION	AGE/LIFE STAGE LOCATION
HERITAGE: How have your family relationships, ethnic, or geographical influences shaped your life?				
HEROES: What relationships influenced your character/shaped your direction (positively & negatively)? How? Why?				
HIGH POINTS: When did you come to know Christ? What experiences have you especially enjoyed? Felt closest to God? Why?				
HARD TIMES: What experiences were especially difficult or painful? Felt furthest from God?				
HAND OF GOD: When/how have you seen God's hand at work in your life? List specific events that illustrate his work in your life.				

TESTIMONY – OPTION #2: THREE PEOPLE AND THREE EVENTS

Option 2 is a shorter, more condensed way to share your testimony. For this option, come to your group prepared to share:

THREE PEOPLE WHO GOD USED TO SHAPE WHO YOU ARE TODAY

- Who led you to Christ or invited you to church?
- How did your parents influence you as a child or adult?
- Did you have a friend, co-worker, or mentor who helped you in a difficult season?

THREE EVENTS THAT GOD USED TO SHAPE WHO YOU ARE TODAY

- What season of life was the darkest? Most joyful?
- Is there a moment you will never forget?
- If you thought your life was going to go a different direction than it did, what event made that change?

SHARING WITH YOUR GROUP

Sharing your testimony can be as simple or creative as you'd like. Feel free to just write it down and share from the page. Or, present it in a way that is creatively unique to your personality.

Regardless of how you share, each person should plan about 15-20 minutes to share.