



Evangelism – Sunday School

II. Our own personal conversion story.

Acts 22:1 - “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

Sharing one’s conversion story is a legitimate and useful tool to use when seeking to present the gospel to others.

A. What is a personal conversion story?



1. Take a few minutes to write down in the space below what you understand to be the definition of a personal conversion story.

A definition of the phrase “personal conversion story.”

A personal conversion story aims to show our hearers why we needed to believe in Christ, provides an explanation of what God has done in our lives to save us from our predicament, tells of what we have done to receive God’s salvation in Christ, and describes something of how Christ has changed our lives.

B. What elements should our personal conversion story include?

Acts 22:1-21

22 “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

¹⁷ “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ ²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

- **Speak of some sinful element in your life showing why you needed to trust in Christ** (v.7-8).
- **Speak of what God has done in your life to save you** (v.6-11).

- **Speak of what you did to become a Christian** (v.12-16).
- **Speak of what you received as a result of trusting in Christ** (v.16).
- **Speak of how your life has changed as a result of trusting in Christ** (v.10, 17-21).

We should present both ...

- the _____ truth of the gospel and
- the _____ experience of how the gospel affects our lives,

... all the while seeking to connect what we are saying to those who are listening so they can understand what we are saying and how it relates to them.

C. What are some key “practical” characteristics of an effective personal conversion story?

Remember: _____ **is essential** to a compelling personal conversion story.

Remember: _____ **is important** to a higher degree of effectiveness when sharing our personal conversion story.

Remember: **Being** _____ **-focused is critical** to a powerful personal conversion story.

D. My personal conversion story.



2. As you listen to my personal conversion story, answer the following questions.

- Is it clear, brief, and Christ-centered?

- Does it have the objective truth of the gospel woven in? Do the subjective experiences mentioned connect with my hearers?
-



3. I have made some modifications to my personal conversion story.

- Are there any improvements? If so, where?

- Are there still some areas that need revision? If so, where?

E. A few final remarks about personal conversion stories.

First, remember that while a personal story of conversion is effective for giving a subjective example of God's powerful work in saving sinners, it _____ to a person that what you believe is absolute truth.

So make sure that you do not make your experiences in your conversion story the _____ of your evangelistic content, but that you especially emphasize setting forth the basic content of the gospel message.

Second, do not expect that you will be able to run through the _____ of your personal conversion story on every occasion you have opportunity to share it with someone.

Sharing only a part of your personal conversion story may feel incomplete to you but the Lord can use what was shared to plant seeds and draw people to Himself.

Third, as a part of experimental theology, evangelism has much that is _____, and the sharing of our personal conversion stories is one such example.... Some of the guidelines I have given are **not** objective truth, but are the application of general principles of wisdom. As such, we have freedom to make adjustments in each situation.



4. Take some time to answer the following.

- First, write down something new you have learned about sharing your personal conversion story from this lecture.

- Second, what is something you did wrong in writing your personal conversion story the first time that you need to change (might be the same answer as #1).