



# Helping people to share their story

BLESS, Autumn 2018

Telling our real life story can be a powerful way of sharing the Gospel – it's hard for people to argue with life change. And yet we all know how daunting it can be to share the story of what Jesus has done in our lives with the people around us who don't hold our view of God.

To equip people in your group to share their story outside of church, we'd like to give them space to practise sharing it within the safety and encouragement of your small group. Each time you meet as a group during the BLESS series, ask one or two volunteers to share their story next time. Give them a week to prepare, and give them a copy of the notes on the following page to help them structure their story. Encourage them not to rush this, but to take time to get everything down on paper, before editing it down to a two-three minute story.



# Sharing your story

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Thank you so much for agreeing to share your story with your small group. The three sections below will hopefully help you to prepare. Don't feel the need to answer every question – they're just there to stimulate thought. After you've written your story, try to edit each section to a paragraph of 6-10 sentences, taking out any 'churchy' words, and looking to make it as conversational as possible. Then, practise speaking it out – aiming to keep it to three minutes max.

## 1. BEFORE

Who were you before you committed your life to Jesus?

Don't hold back situations, experiences or emotions that come to mind:

- What was your lifestyle like?
- Who did you spend time with, and what did you do?
- What were your emotions in your day-to-day life?
- How did you deal with setbacks, challenges, crises?
- What did you feel was lacking in your life?
- What were your hopes, dream and ambitions?
- What did your relationships look like?
- Where did you turn for help or advice?
- Where were you at spiritually?

## 2. ENCOUNTER

We don't all have an exact conversion date we can look back on. It might be that things happened for you over time rather than suddenly – and that's totally fine. But try to remember what brought you to Jesus. Don't be tempted to manipulate your story to make it sound more dramatic. Your story will resonate because it's real, not because it's sensational.

- What helped you turn to Jesus?
- Did you have a particular need which Jesus met?
- Was there another Christian whose life made Jesus attractive to you?
- Were there any key places or moments?
- Was it a sudden conversion or gradual?
- What did you realise at that time?
- What emotions did you feel?

## 3. AFTER

What has your life been like since your commitment to follow Jesus?

Try to capture how Christ is meeting your needs and what a relationship with Him means to you now.

- How has Jesus made a difference to your life?
- What have been the benefits? What has been the cost?
- What are your ongoing struggles?
- How have your thoughts, attitudes and emotions changed?
- What has changed in your relationships with others?
- How does your faith in Jesus affect your hopes, dreams and ambitions?