

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12:24 ESV



**BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH**

## **Worship & Communion Service**

Sunday, July 3, 2022

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### **SERVICES & CONTACTS**


**Sunday Worship Services in-person & live stream - 10:40am & 6pm**

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

**Join us for Sunday School in-person - 9:30am**

**There is a class for ALL ages**

**Midweek Service in-person & online (Wednesday)**

 **ZOOM Noon** and repeated **7:30pm** | link provided

**Youth Service in-person - 7pm (Friday)**

 **WhatsApp**  **Signal**  **Telegram 845-5752** or Tel: **426-4707**

email: [info@bereanbarbados.org](mailto:info@bereanbarbados.org)

[www.bereanbarbados.org](http://www.bereanbarbados.org)

# 6 Principles for Sharing Your Testimony

SHELBY ABBOTT

I love telling people my spiritual story. The testimony of how Christ came into my life and made me a different person is always exciting to share, and pretty easy to do. It's the story of my restored relationship with God that came to me through no effort of my own, but solely through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In over two decades working as a full-time minister, I've learned that personal testimonies are one of the most influential tools the Holy Spirit uses to stir spiritual interest and point people toward Christ. There's no more poignant and powerful way to communicate the gospel than by sharing our story—not because we're so great, but because Jesus is so great.

Your story is authentically and uniquely you. It's versatile and can be used in a variety of situations—from sharing with an individual to addressing a group. It's not a debate, it's not pushy, it's not fake, and it doesn't feel like religious propaganda, since it's coming from your heart. Very rarely will people argue with you about your story. In fact, they're more likely to engage and ask clarifying questions, which in turn pushes the dialogue about Jesus to a more personal level.

## Six Simple Principles

If you've never thought about preparing and communicating your story, that's fine (most Christians haven't). Here are six simple principles to get you started.

### 1. Keep it short.

Communicating too many details about your life can distract listeners from the central point: how you met Christ. Keeping it short can help with that. Three minutes is a good target. Remember that the purpose of telling your story is not about you; it's about God. Clearly and succinctly communicate what he has done in your life. Listeners today have a very low tolerance for long-windedness. Being concise helps keep people engaged.

### 2. Have a before, how, and after.

There should be a pretty clear timeline and logical flow to your story. Talk about what your life was like before Christ, how you met him, and what your life's like now. This timeline is different for everyone, of course, but it brings a sense of structure to what you're saying and helps keep your listener tracking.

For those who've been Christians since childhood, be vulnerable about your struggles as a growing Christian—the “how” may be a time when the gospel really sank in, and you understood it at a deeper level. Everyone's story is unique, and there's flexibility in how to share it, but thinking in terms of a timeline can be very helpful.

### 3. Have a theme.

A theme helps people walk away from your story remembering one main idea. There may be many themes in your story, but try to boil it down to one. Loading

your testimony with multiple main points makes your story muddier, not more poignant. It's much more likely to stick with people when there's a single, memorable theme.

#### **4. Clearly present the gospel.**

You want people to clearly grasp the source of your transformation: Jesus Christ. If people aren't pointed to Christ, they'll be pointed in another direction, which will (of course) ultimately fail them. We want people to come away from our story thinking, "Isn't Jesus amazing? I want him in my life, too."

Your testimony should show people that God loves them, they're sinful, Jesus is the payment for the penalty of their sin, and they need to trust Christ as the payment for the penalty of their sins in order to have a personal relationship with God.

Don't be tempted to omit this part of your story—it's the most important element. It's the message that changed everything about you and brought you to where you are now. If you haven't shared the gospel in your testimony, you haven't really shared your testimony.

#### **5. Avoid 'Christianese.'**

Avoid Christian slang—those words believers use all the time in everyday Christian circles but make no sense to anyone else. We're trying to be clear about what we're communicating, and we need to understand the importance of speaking a language that can be easily understood. We want anyone and everyone to have intellectual access to what we're saying, so eliminate alienating language (or at least be willing to quickly define it).

#### **6. Practice, practice, practice!**

You should know your testimony by heart without having any notecards or outline in front of you. If someone asks about your life at the public swimming pool, you won't be able to whip out a piece of paper for reference—so have your story memorized and ready at a moment's notice. It's a good idea to write it out or make an outline, then practice it aloud on your own or with a friend. Eventually you'll know it by heart.

### **Your Story as Part of God's Story**

Remind yourself as you prepare that it's not just about how God and the gospel fit into your story, but also about how your story fits into the greater story of the gospel. God will use your testimony to affect those around you if you're faithful to speak up. How he has changed you can change someone else. Isn't that amazing?

Your testimony is significant because it's the personal miracle of how God transformed your heart of stone into a heart of flesh, and only you can uniquely bear witness to that miracle. He has been behind every detail of your life, even using the ugly and terrible things to form and shape you with the utmost care and attention. He is still working on you right now. What a joy to tell others of his miraculous work!

# Order of Service

COMMUNION SUNDAY

July 3, 2022 at 10:40am

THEME: "The Sharing and Caring Spirit"

1. Call to Worship
2. Announcements - Secretary Celeste Porte
3. Meditation & Invocation
4. **O Great God**
5. Scripture Reading - **Acts 4: 32 - 37**
6. **Behold The Lamb**
7. Prayer & Offertory - **Hymn 714 - Jesus Bids Us Shine**
8. **Hymn 663 - Make Me a Blessing**
9. Sermon - Pastor Paul Garnes
10. **Behold The Lamb**
11. Distribution of Elements
12. **His Mercy is More**
13. **Hymn 644 - Help Somebody Today**
15. Benediction

## ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- Give God thanks His mercy and Grace for a new month.
- To continue to shield us from Monkey-pox and COVID-19.
- To stop the spread of COVID and for healing for those ill from the virus.
- For comfort for families who have recently lost loved ones.
- For the ministry and wellbeing of our Pastor and family.
- For healing for our sick members.
- For grace for our shut-in members.
- For the many Berean Churches in the DR Congo.
- For the friends of Berean - The Gilmours, Haecks, Hulls, Moores, Montagues, Porchers, Rogers, Rudders and Taylors.
- For entrepreneurs and those seeking employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem.

## July Birthdays

1st - Kenmore Maycock  
5th - Marcelle Griffith  
6th - Cheryl Brewster  
10th - Valda Foster  
11th - Gwendolyn Spencer  
12th - Jocelyn Hoyte  
13th - Norma Thompson

13th - Barry Ward  
15th - Lianne Bovell  
22nd - Christopher Ward  
25th - Ann Proverbs  
26th - Gaynelle Jemmott  
27th - Goldie Spieler  
28th - Delano Austin

28th - Chanté James  
- Janice Reece  
29th - Joan Osborne

### AUGUST

1st - Louise Moore

## July Anniversaries

1st - Kenmore & Carol Maycock

27th - Lucy & Carl Crichlow