

# Sharing Your Story

What do you do when something good happens to you? A new promotion at work, winning a new car in a drawing, or a good deal on a vacation spot are all things that you would tell your friends and family about. You want to share your joy with them.

First, let us review the decision that you may have made in the last few days:

- ⊕ **Becoming a believer, a Christian, getting saved, and being born again are all words that mean you want God to be in charge of your life.**
- ⊕ **This process begins with God, because He provided a way for us to have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, His Son.**
- ⊕ **God wants to be in a relationship with everyone, but we must respond to His love and call to us.**

Here are four simple steps in responding to God's call and "becoming a follower of Christ." The order of the steps could be interchangeable. What is important is that the unbeliever becomes a "believer" by doing all the steps with a sincere heart.

**BELIEVE:** Romans 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you

will be saved.” (NIV) A head belief is not enough. One must be willing to put that belief into action in one’s life.

**REPENT:** Every sin is against God (Psalm 51:4 NIV). And with the sorrow must come the decision to leave each sin. Acts 3:19 says, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” To repent literally means to turn around. Turn from a life of sin to a life of obedience to God.

**CONFESS:** One must agree with God that he or she is a sinner and tell God about personal sins. I John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (NIV)

**RECEIVE:** We must actually open up the door to our heart and invite Jesus to come in to be our personal Lord and Savior. The words in John 1:12 show the connection between believing and receiving. “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...” (NIV)

Becoming a Christian is not following some ritualistic formula to join a church. It is, however, a life changing event that takes one off the wide road to hell and destruction and places him or her on the narrow road to heaven and eternal life. The decision to become a Christian must be sincerely made, with the desire to please God. If you would like to become a Christian, you may want to pray with a mature Christian. Or, you can pray privately. Be sure to use all four of the above steps in your prayer.

**If you pray that prayer sincerely, then believe that Jesus has promised to come into your heart. Follow Him. Obey Him. Trust Him. And welcome to the Body of Christ!**

**Take some time now to make a list of those with whom you would like to share your great news:**

*I would like to share my news with...*

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You can share this life changing Good News, also called the gospel or the plan of salvation, by telling your story of forgiveness. This outline will help you share your story with others.

⊕ **What your life was like before accepting Christ**

Include information about the life you lived and the things God provided to help you understand your separation from Him and need for forgiveness.

⊕ **What you did to accept Christ**

Include information regarding your salvation experience. A simple A-B-C outline can be followed as you share how you:

**A**cknowledged personal sins and separation from God.

**B**elieved Jesus to be fully God and fully Man Who gave His sinless life on a cross and rose from the dead making forgiveness of sin possible.

**C**onfessed your sins and accepted God's gracious offer of forgiveness, receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

⊕ **What your life has been like since accepting Christ**

Include information about your personal relationship with Jesus and the difference it is making in your life.

## **Begin With Family and Friends**

Your circle of loved ones is often the easiest to share with. Many times they are already curious because of the changes they have noticed in you. Speak genuinely from the heart and you will find most to be respectful and interested. Do not neglect issuing an invitation to receive Christ. If accepted, lead them through the simple A-B-C outline mentioned above.

## **Your Personal Prayer of Commitment to Christ**

*“Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner. I genuinely repent of my sins and ask for Your forgiveness. And Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. I now respond to Your call to follow You. I receive You as my Lord and Savior-- and make a commitment of my life to You. With Your help I choose to serve and obey You. Please make me the person You want me to be. Thank You for dying for my sins, for Your free pardon, for Your gift of eternal life, and for hearing and answering my prayer. Amen.”*

### **Let Us Hear From You**

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⊕ **Click “Share Your Story”**