



## BRIEFING: TELLING YOUR STORY

(from Just Walk Across the Room by Bill Hybels)

1. Everybody who follows Jesus has a story about how they came to faith. No matter how you came to faith, it's the best, most exciting thing that ever happened to you, right? It's always a joy to talk about what God has done in your life. But don't get too wrapped up in your own story—make sure you consider the other person, not yourself, when you tell your story.

a. Be concise.

It's easy to go on for hours about the best thing that ever happened to you—but practice until you can tell your story in about 3 minutes. If someone has questions or is interested in more detail, by all means, go on!

b. Make sure your story makes sense.

It all makes sense in your head, but think of the other person. Tell your story clearly and simply.

c. Avoid “religionese.”

Avoid insider jargon like “salvation,” “born again,” and “washed in the blood.” To people who don't know Jesus yet, these words have no meaning and could be confusing.

d. Don't act superior, or like you've got it all figured out.

... because we don't, do we? Each of us is a sinner. Tell your story with humility. Make sure when you speak that you clearly show how much you respect and value the person you're talking to.

2. Tell your story using the “before and after” pattern.

Remember the story about how Jesus healed the blind man in John 9? The man says, “I was blind, but now I see.” He's telling his story before he met Jesus, and after he met Jesus. We can use the same model for our story.

Here are some examples:

“I was self-destructive, but now I'm healthy.”

“I was bitter, but now my life is joyful, despite my circumstances.”

“I was always afraid, but now I'm confident.”

“I was on the verge of suicide, but now I have hope.”

“I had cancer, but God healed me.”

How can you best tell *your* story?

I was \_\_\_\_\_,

but now I \_\_\_\_\_.