

# MY STORY OF FAITH

1

BY PHILIP M. BICKEL

I. Sing "I Love to Tell the Story". [[www.hymnsite.com/lyrics/umh156.sht](http://www.hymnsite.com/lyrics/umh156.sht)]

II. Key verse [worth memorizing]: 1 Peter 3:14-16 (NLT).

"So don't be afraid and don't worry. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way."

A. What in this text surprises you?

B. What troubles you?

C. What encourages you?

III. Exploring the course.

A. Subject: My Story of Faith.

1. Connect God's story, your story, and their story.
2. How would you define a story of faith or testimony?
3. What are examples you have heard?
4. Do you have a story of faith? Can you tell it? Do you?
5. What do you hope to accomplish in this class?

B. Goal: To design and use a personalized witnessing tool.

1. Assignments. Not just head knowledge.
2. Evaluation, but not grades.
3. Accountability, but not shaming.
4. Find a partner to encourage you.

IV. The man born blind tells his story of faith in John 9.

- A. Who asks him? Why do they ask?
- B. What does he say?
- C. Note how his story develops through use?
- D. What is one lesson you gain from this biblical example?

V. Developing your story of faith.

A. Respond to these questions [From *Heart to Heart* by Steve Wagner].

1. Was there a time in my life when I made a conscious commitment to follow Christ? How did it come about?
2. How has my faith in Jesus Christ affected my life?
3. Why do I have an essential need for a Savior? How did God meet that need?
4. How can I have forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
5. How is my life in the church having a positive effect on me and my family?
6. What is saving faith? Compare it to false substitutes?
7. What person has been most influential in my spiritual life? How did she/he bring me closer to Christ and His church?
8. How does my faith in Jesus Christ give me hope in every circumstance?
9. What spiritual gifts has God given me? How does using them help others and give me a sense of purpose?

B. Answer at least 5 questions, 1 per each week of this class.

C. Write or record your response.

D. Practice speaking your story: to God; to yourself; to others.

# MY STORY OF FAITH

## 2

### I. Course goals.

- A. To design and use a personalized witnessing tool.
- B. To be ready to explain our Christian hope (1 Peter 3:15).
- C. To connect God's story, my story, and their story.
- D. To encourage one another to complete our stories.
- E. To actually tell our story to others.

### III. Nebuchadnezzar tells what God has done in his life. (Daniel 4)

- A. To whom is Nebuchadnezzar's story addressed?
- B. What was Nebuchadnezzar like at the beginning of his story?
- C. How did God and Daniel warn him?
- D. Then what happened?
- E. How has Nebuchadnezzar change by the end of his story?
- F. What impact may this testimony have had?
- G. How can you "publish" your story?

### IV. Practice sharing your story.

### V. Developing your story of faith.

#### A. Respond to these questions [From *Heart to Heart* by Steve Wagner].

1. Was there a time in my life when I made a conscious commitment to follow Christ? How did it come about?
2. How has my faith in Jesus Christ affected my life?
3. Why do I have an essential need for a Savior? How did God meet that need?
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#### B. Answer at least 5 questions, 1 per each week of this class.

#### C. Write or record your response.

#### D. Practice speaking your story: to God; to yourself; to others.

# MY STORY OF FAITH

3

## I. Course goals.

- A. To design and use a personalized witnessing tool.
- B. To be ready to explain our Christian hope (1 Peter 3:15).
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- D. To encourage one another to complete our stories.
- E. To actually tell our story to others.

## II. Paul tells his story to royalty (Acts 25:23 to 26:32).

- A. Imagine all the different kinds of people present at this event?
- B. How does Paul describe himself before he changed?
- C. How did God change him?
- D. What has Paul done since the change occurred?
- E. Analyze the reactions of Festus and Agrippa.
- F. What does Paul story teach you about telling yours?
- G. On your own, compare this story to Acts 21:27 to 22:23.

## III. Practice sharing your story.

- A. Where are you making progress?
  
- B. Where are you having difficulty?

## IV. Developing your story of faith.

### A. Respond to these questions [From *Heart to Heart* by Steve Wagner].

1. Was there a time in my life when I made a conscious commitment to follow Christ? How did it come about?
2. How has my faith in Jesus Christ affected my life?
3. Why do I have an essential need for a Savior? How did God meet that need?
4. How can I have forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
5. How is my life in the church having a positive effect on me and my family?
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### B. Answer at least 5 questions, 1 per each week of this class.

### C. Write or record your response.

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# MY STORY OF FAITH

## 4

### I. Course goals.

- A. To design and use a personalized witnessing tool.
- B. To be ready to explain our Christian hope (1 Peter 3:15).
- C. To connect God's story, my story, and their story.
- D. To encourage one another to complete our stories.
- E. To actually tell our story to others.

### II. Paul tells his story in another manner (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

- A. Who is Timothy? Why was Paul writing to him?
- B. What is similar to Paul's story in Acts 26? What is different?
- C. What is Paul's main purpose in sharing this story?
- D. What does this story teach you about telling yours?

### III. Reflect on the task of developing your story.

- A. Where are you making progress?
- B. Where are you having difficulty?
- C. What details, Bible verses, illustrations, and other elements might add clarity and interest to your story?

### IV. Practice sharing your story.

### V. Developing your story of faith.

#### A. Respond to these questions [From *Heart to Heart* by Steve Wagner].

1. Was there a time in my life when I made a conscious commitment to follow Christ? How did it come about?
2. How has my faith in Jesus Christ affected my life?
3. Why do I have an essential need for a Savior? How did God meet that need?
4. How can I have forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
5. How is my life in the church having a positive effect on me and my family?
6. What is saving faith? Compare it to false substitutes?
7. What person has been most influential in my spiritual life? How did she/he bring me closer to Christ and His church?
8. How does my faith in Jesus Christ give me hope in every circumstance?
9. What spiritual gifts has God given me? How does using them help others and give me a sense of purpose?

B. Answer at least 5 questions, 1 per each week of this class.

C. Write or record your response.

D. Practice speaking your story: to God; to yourself; to others.

# MY STORY OF FAITH

# 5

## I. Course goals.

- A. To design and use a personalized witnessing tool.
- B. To be ready to explain our Christian hope (1 Peter 3:15).
- C. To connect God's story, my story, and their story.
- D. To encourage one another to complete our stories.
- E. To actually tell our story to others.

## II. Paul shares another personal story in Philippians 3:2-14.

- A. What motivates Paul to tell this story?
- B. What did Paul formerly trust in?
- C. Where is he now placing all his confidence?
- D. Has he become Super Christian, or is he like us?

## III. Reflect on the task of developing your story.

- A. Where are you making progress?
- B. Where are you having difficulty?
- C. What details, Bible verses, illustrations, and other elements might add clarity and interest to your story?

## IV. Practice sharing your story.

## V. Developing your story of faith.

### A. Respond to these questions [From *Heart to Heart* by Steve Wagner].

1. Was there a time in my life when I made a conscious commitment to follow Christ? How did it come about?
2. How has my faith in Jesus Christ affected my life?
3. Why do I have an essential need for a Savior? How did God meet that need?
4. How can I have forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
5. How is my life in the church having a positive effect on me and my family?
6. What is saving faith? Compare it to false substitutes?
7. What person has been most influential in my spiritual life? How did she/he bring me closer to Christ and His church?
8. How does my faith in Jesus Christ give me hope in every circumstance?
9. What spiritual gifts has God given me? How does using them help others and give me a sense of purpose?

### B. Answer at least 5 questions, 1 per each week of this class.

### C. Write or record your response.

### D. Practice speaking your story: to God; to yourself; to others.

# MY STORY OF FAITH

# 6

- I. Sing “I Love to Tell the Story.”
- II. Paul shares another personal story in 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10.
  - A. What motivates Paul to tell this story?
  - B. About whom does Paul boast? Who gets the glory?
  - C. What story from your life resembles Paul’s story here?
- III. Ways to share our stories.
  - A. Here and now.
  - B. On your church’s website.
  - C. In daily life.
- IV. Practice sharing your story.
  1. Was there a time in my life when I made a conscious commitment to follow Christ? How did it come about?
  2. How has my faith in Jesus Christ affected my life?
  3. Why do I have an essential need for a Savior? How did God meet that need?
  4. How can I have forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
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- V. Evaluation of “My Story of Faith.” See next page.

## ***EVALUATION OF "MY STORY OF FAITH"***

I. To what degree have I realized the goals of this course?

A. To design and use a personalized witnessing tool.

B. To be ready to explain our Christian hope (1 Peter 3:15).

C. To connect God's story, my story, and their story.

D. To encourage one another to complete our stories.

E. To actually tell my story to others.

II. Place an "X" by the questions you developed. Check those you still intend to develop in the future.

1. Was there a time in my life when I made a conscious commitment to follow Christ? How did it come about?
2. How has my faith in Jesus Christ affected my life?
3. Why do I have an essential need for a Savior? How did God meet that need?
4. How can I have forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
5. How is my life in the church having a positive effect on me and my family?

6. What is saving faith? Compare it to false substitutes?

7. What person has been most influential in my spiritual life? How did she/he bring me closer to Christ and His church?

8. How does my faith in Jesus Christ give me hope in every circumstance?

9. What spiritual gifts has God given me? How does using them help others and give me a sense of purpose?

III. What were the strong points of the course?

IV. What were the weak parts of the course?

V. Should this course be offered again? Would you recommend it to others?

VI. Here is how I intend to put this course into practice.

VI. I would serve on a team to facilitate this course in the future.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_