



How to Share Testimonies in Your Connect Group

One of the best ways to grow closer as a group and have effective conversation is to understand each member's spiritual journey. Doing so can be personal and asks that members be vulnerable, so you need to create an environment where members feel comfortable being honest and sharing. Follow these tips to help your members share their testimony and allow your group to grow relationally:

1. **Define what "testimony" means.** A testimony or faith story is **not** a biographical journey through a person's life. Rather, it's an explanation of how the person came to their current spiritual state. A testimony should include brief background information, the member's conversion experience, and the status of their walk with Christ.
2. **Set a time expectation.** Ask that each member give their testimony in three to five minutes. By setting a defined amount of time, you:
 - Make nervous members feel more comfortable because they know they don't have to be the center of attention for long.
 - Keep members from dominating the meeting with extended testimony background and stories.
3. **Start with yourself.** Set an example by sharing your testimony first. This will give everyone a template to follow when they share. Your vulnerability and honesty will likely make them feel more comfortable to open up when their turn arrives.
4. **Don't interrupt.** Sharing a testimony is often a deeply personal experience, and each member should be allowed to share without interruptions. Avoid asking questions or commenting and communicate to the other members they should do the same.
5. **Remind the group that this is a judgement-free zone.** All members should feel comfortable knowing that nothing they share will leave the room and everyone will accept them fully, no matter what they share about their testimony.
6. **Provide positive feedback.** After someone shares, thank them for their honesty. Consider following up with them one-on-one after the meeting or throughout the week to affirm them in their faith walk.