SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

This is just one simple outline for how you can live as a witness in sharing your testimony. Feel free to use the spaces below to jot down some ideas or talk through them with a friend or loved one. Then try to share your story with someone this week!

1. BEFORE CHRIST: Paint a picture of what your life was like before Christ. What did your life revolve around (e.g., relationships, your reputation, money) before you began your relationship with God? You don't need to go into too much detail about past sins, but show your need for a Savior! For someone who has follow Jesus since they were young, consider talking about the ways your faith was immature or misunderstandings you had that then God grew you through.

2. MEETING CHRIST: Give the details about why and how you became a Christian. Communicate in such a way that the person you are talking with can understand how they can become a Christian too. What were the things/people/circumstances that drew you to Him?

3. NOW: Share one or two of the changes that Christ has made in your life as they relate to your opening idea. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude or perspective, not just the changes in behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect. But what's different about your life now? What is He currently teaching you or growing in you?

HELPFUL HINTS FOR COMMUNICATING

- Pray before you write out and share your story.
- Write the way you speak.
- Don't be overly negative or positive. Be honest.
- Don't criticize or any church, denomination, organization, etc.
- Think of your listeners. Avoid overly confusing or unfamiliar language.
- Keep it short. Aim to tell your story in three to five minutes.
- Practice telling your story until it becomes natural.
- Pray about whom you can share your story with.

Whether you are in line at the grocery store, sitting with a family member or posting on social media, the Bible calls us to "always be ready" to explain our hope in Christ with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15-16).