



When it comes to sharing your faith, it's all about connections. Just knowing the facts of the gospel isn't enough. If you can't connect with someone on a personal level, then anything you say will probably fall flat.

The following outline is adapted from the 3Story Evangelism® material produced by Youth for Christ/USA. It is a simple outline to remind you of the important aspects of sharing your faith. It's all about connections. Here's how it works.

Their Story

Listen first. No one cares about what you think; they care about what they think. Listen so you can connect **your story to their story**. Here are the important parts:

- What their life is like now
- How they could meet Christ
- What their life would be like if they would follow Christ

Your Story

Your testimony is the most important tool you have when it comes to sharing your faith. No one can argue with how Christ has affected your life. Look for ways to connect **their story to your story**. Here are the important parts:

- What your life was like before you met Christ
- How you became a Christian
- How things have changed

His Story

The reality of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important story in history—no question. Connect **His story to their story**. Here are the important parts:

- Jesus' life—His teachings, the way He interacted with people, His experiences
- His death—the way He died, His choice to die, His sacrifice for us
- His purpose in coming to earth—what it means to us, our re-connection to God, our forgiveness through His sacrifice

A lot of stuff to remember? Not really. It's pretty simple to start, and you can get better and better. Learn to listen—connect **your story to their story**. Learn to give your testimony—connect **their story to your story**. Know the basics of the gospel—connect **His story to their story**.

Here are some action points taken from *G5: Growing in the Five Commitments of a Campus Missionary*:

- Develop a Five-Friend Focus with the names of five non-Christian friends for whom you will pray regularly, build relationships, and look for opportunities to share the gospel.
- Write out your personal testimony using the three ingredients: life before Christ, how you came to Christ, and life with Christ. Once you've completed your testimony, practice sharing it with another campus missionary. If you would like additional help, talk to your pastor or youth leader.
- Go to The Seven Project's Web site at www.thesevenproject.com, and post your testimony on the site. From the main page, you can access *My Story*, where you can share what God has done in your life.
- Begin looking for opportunities to build relationships with your friends and engage in meaningful conversations with them. This is an on-going process. Put your Five-Friend Focus card in a place where you see it regularly to help keep this a priority.



Practical Hints

Don't . . .

X Have bad breath.

That triple shot latté may have smelled great going down, but it doesn't coming up. Remember, we need to keep distractions to a minimum. Use a breath mint or keep your distance.

X Be pushy.

Some people need more time than others. Even Jesus told people to consider what they were doing carefully when deciding to follow Him. Give them time.

X Follow a script.

Your faith is personal and every person is different. Let God lead you as you listen and speak. If you sound rehearsed, people will tune you out.

X Treat people like projects.

This isn't about us racking up "salvation points." If we don't genuinely care about people, they'll get that.

Do . . .

✓ Listen first.

Be respectful of someone's beliefs even if they are incorrect. Why would they listen to you if you won't listen to them?

✓ Know your stuff.

You don't have to be a Bible scholar, but there's no excuse for laziness when it comes to the most important story ever told. And if you do get stuck, just let them know you'll get back to them when you get the answer.

✓ Ask people if you can pray for them.

It's amazing how open people are to prayer even if they aren't religious. God can really show himself as you pray with someone. Be bold and ask them if you can pray with them even if they don't accept Christ.

✓ Let God do His thing.

The apostle Paul makes it clear that sometimes we may plant, and others reap the harvest. But only God waters. Scripture teaches that faith is a gift from God. Do your thing, and let God do His.