

Series: Going Public with Your Faith (Part 5)

Keep It Simple: Tell Your Story

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Scripture: John 9:1-15

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰"How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded.

¹¹He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

¹²"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Group Session

Opening Questions

Why are personal stories more intriguing than just informational dialogue? Do you find that true of yourself when you are listening to a speaker or teacher?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read the Scripture above. What parts of this story stand out to you?
2. Telling our story is like a three act play. The acts are:
 - a. Your life before receiving Christ
 - b. How you received Christ
 - c. Your life after receiving Christ

Why is it important to share with people what our life was like before Christ? (They may identify with that. Warning: If we've really had a rough background. It can be easy to spend too much time on the "life before Christ" section.)

3. What can we share about our story if we came to Christ as a young child?
4. There is a real difference in head knowledge and heart knowledge. Many people know some basics about Jesus, without having an accurate picture. Still others know what it means to accept Christ and repent and follow Him, but still haven't made that commitment.

How do we know if someone has head knowledge but not heart knowledge?

What do you say to someone when you perceive this is the problem?

5. What are the basics that we've got to cover about how a person receives Christ?
(God, man, sin, Christ, repentance, lordship, obedience)
6. Let's talk about what is true and what is not about the difference Christ makes in our lives. What are some things you hear that are not true? (example: no problems in life)

What can we promise someone that are true facts about what Christ does in our lives?

7. Will someone share your story with the group?

Closing Challenge

Work on your story this week. Write out the story so that it becomes clear in your mind. Make sure you don't use churchy words. Allow someone else in the group to read it and offer suggestions to make it more clear.

Remember... God uses simple stories to do amazing work. He will use yours too!