



As we near the end of our study, remember that you were “wonderfully made” as a unique and valuable creation of God, put on this earth at exactly the right time and place, family and associates, experiences and gifts. His 5 purposes for you are summarized in the four topics we have already covered, plus the final one:

- |   |                       |                            |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. You were planned for God’s pleasure    | Love Him              | Worship                    |
| 2. You were formed for God’s family       | Love His family       | Fellowship                 |
| 3. You were created to become like Christ | Follow Him            | Discipleship               |
| 4. You were shaped for serving God        | Serve Him             | Ministry (among believers) |
| 5. You were made for a mission            | Tell others about Him | Evangelism                 |

Rick Warren reminds us that “Jesus clearly understood his life mission on earth. At age twelve he said, ‘*I must be about my Father’s business,*’ and twenty-one years later, dying on the cross, he said, ‘*It is finished.*’ Like bookends, these two statements frame a well-lived, purpose-driven life. Jesus completed the mission the Father gave him” (p. 282), but there was still more to do. After His death and resurrection, Jesus clarified *our* mission by giving us a Great Commission: “*Go and make disciples of all nations*” (Matthew 28:18-20). This is the unfinished task. God is still at work in our world today, leading people to true faith in Jesus, and He wants you to join Him!

1. If you had the opportunity to tell a president or prime minister or ambassador about having faith in Jesus, would you do it? How would you feel? What would you say?
2. In Acts 25:22-27, the Apostle Paul was invited to speak to King Agrippa. Evaluate Paul’s situation, then compare and contrast it with the King and his surroundings.
3. There are 4 parts to Paul’s message.
  - a. What principles of effective communication do you observe in his *introduction*? (Acts 26:1-3)
  - b. Paul describes his life *before he met Jesus*. How might the King identify with Paul? (Acts 26:4-11)
  - c. In less than one minute, Paul explains the turning-point of his life: *how he met Jesus* (Acts 26:12-18). Pair up and tell your partner in one minute how you met Jesus.
  - d. In Acts 26:19-23, Paul describes the *difference Jesus has made in his life*. Tell your partner in one minute how Jesus has made a difference in your life.
4. Paul shared his testimony hoping to persuade the King to become a Christian. What motivated him? (24-29)
5. Rick Warren says, “The consequences of your mission will last forever; the consequences of your job will not. Nothing else you do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God” (p. 284). Would your best friend conclude your God-given mission is *really* a driving purpose in your life?

*“In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world,  
I give them a mission in the world.”*  
(John 17:18 Msg)

## REACHING YOUR WORLD

Sharing your testimony is one of the best ways to find common ground with a non-believer. Your testimony is simply the story of what Christ has done in your life. It doesn't have to be long; in fact, three minutes is just about the right length for any situation. As you tell your story, divide it into three parts:

- Your life before you received Christ.
- How you came to Christ.
- How Christ is changing your life.

A well-prepared testimony can have a direct impact in nearly every witnessing situation. It can be one of your most effective tools in witnessing, helping you to present Christ in a clear, attractive, and personal manner.

(By the way--if you became a Christian at an early age, your testimony should be presented from the perspective of when you began to experience significant growth in your Christian life.)

If you feel as though you have not developed your testimony to its fullest potential, the following "do's" and "don'ts" will help.

### What to do...

#### **Link your testimony to the conversation.**

Example: "I can really identify with the concerns you're having with your teenager. Several years ago I found my whole life was filled with anxiety and frustration--just waiting for another problem with my son."

#### **Be clear on how you came to Christ.**

Example: "I was invited to attend a Bible study. It was over a period of several weeks that I began to understand how much God really loved me; and one night after the study, I invited Christ to come into my life and forgive my sins."

#### **Use specific examples to make your story real.**

Example: "God began to give me a real peace in my life. I remember one night my son was over an hour late. My normal feelings would have been fear and worry. But as I prayed, God calmed me down and gave me His peace."

### What not to do...

#### **Don't use Christian Jargon that non-Christians will not understand.**

While terms like "saved," "lost," "sacrificed," "glorious," etc. can be very meaningful to Christians, they do not communicate effectively to non-Christians.

#### **Don't exaggerate.**

Life is not always wonderful, totally fulfilling and without problems. People appreciate accuracy and realism.

#### **Don't mention the names of denominations or church groups.**

Statements like, "I attended the First Christ Church before I became a Christian . . ." should be avoided. Keep your conversation positive and focused on what God has done in your life.

When telling your testimony, be as specific as possible, humorous if appropriate, and very clear when explaining how you invited Christ into your life.

You should write out and memorize your own three-minute testimony. Practice delivering it conversationally, perhaps with a friend. You'll be surprised at how often it will come in handy--and at how effective it can be in helping you move from casual conversation to the actual gospel.