

## Sharing Your Story - Videotaped

As you are coming out to be baptized on Sunday we will show a video telling your story (testimony) of how you trusted in Jesus as your Savior and why you want to be baptized.

I realize it is uncomfortable for some of us to do this, whatever our age. So here are a few helpful tips.

- After editing, your recorded story (testimony) will be about **one to two minutes long**. So focus in on the important highlights. We are not able to tell your whole life story! Here are key questions: What led you to put your trust in Christ? What is the story behind that happening? What difference will it make to you that you are baptized.
- Please write it out (at least an outline) and bring it with you in case your mind goes blank! That can happen to all of us!
- Relax and realize you are telling your story. You are not getting a grade for it! Just have fun sharing what God has done. People enjoy hearing a story.
- Because you are being taped, you can just talk naturally. You don't have to prepare a speech that you must tell without stopping. We will ask questions and help guide you through the process. You can do parts of it over if you don't like how it came out the first time you say something. Just relax and have fun!
- **Here is the basic outline you can follow** (though it can vary):
  - **Start with telling what your life was like before you became a follower of Jesus.** (For young children, this may not apply yet or they may have little to say!)
  - **Continue by explaining how and why you chose to put your trust in Jesus as your Savior and become a follower of Christ.** For some, this is a major event. For others, this happens over time. Both are valid. Just share about what was true for you.
  - **Conclude by sharing the difference Jesus has made in your life and why you want to be baptized.** You don't need to make it sound like life is perfect. But what does Jesus mean to you? How have you changed? What have you seen God do? What difference will it make on Monday after you are baptized?

Remember, you are not giving a report - you are telling a story! It has a beginning, middle, and end. At the same time, it is a very short story. You can't include everything. Think about what is most important for people to know so that they understand your story.

***Special note to parents of young kids:*** Without putting words into their mouths, most kids need help with this. In most cases, they may do best if you write it in a short paragraph and they read it. Keep it simple! A 30-second testimony is fine! Younger kids have less life to summarize. And again, we will be able to ask questions to help. We can re-record if it is not clear. Kids usually do great with this!

Hope that helps. Let me know if you have any questions.