

write your baptism testimony

Now that you've thought through your answers to the interview questions, combine them into a simple paragraph below. Be sure to begin by stating your first and last name. After you finish, practice saying your testimony aloud. Say each word slowly and make your pronunciation distinct. Be sure to "get comfortable" with your testimony before you come to your videotaping. The video crew may also make helpful suggestions at the taping.

Sample Adult Testimony

My name is Tracy Smith. A few weeks ago while listening to the message I realized that I needed Jesus Christ to save me from my sin. I asked Jesus to forgive me and save me. He is my Savior, and I have committed my life to Him as my Lord. I'm excited about following Christ, and about what He is doing with my life. I want to thank the Pastor, and my husband, for praying for me and helping me commit my life to Christ.

Sample Circumstance Testimony

My name is Ed Harris. My greatest recent business success was also a time that God began to work in my life, helping me realize that all my "stuff" didn't mean anything outside of Christ. God used Christian friends and business associates, and many late talks at Starbucks, to help me understand what's really important. One month ago, my wife and I committed our lives to Jesus Christ, and I'm being baptized today as a symbol of what He has done in my life.

Sample Child Testimony

Hi! My name is Johnny Doe, and I'm 10 years old. The other night I was talking with my mom about Jesus. She told me how everybody sins and that Jesus saves people from their sins. I said I wanted to be saved from my sins. My mom and dad prayed with me, and I told Jesus I was sorry for my sins. Now Jesus is in charge of my life. I want to thank my mom and dad for talking to me about Jesus and helping me be a Christ-follower.

Your Videotaping Appointment

Date _____ Time _____ Location _____

Important!

If you must change your videotaping, please call pastor Greg at 206-403-5255 or email gregbyman@gmail.com at least 24 hours prior to your taping.

St. Joe Community Church

baptism
sharing your testimony

Baptism is a special moment in your life and an opportunity to share your faith in Christ with others. When you are baptized, no matter what your age or background, you are obeying Jesus' command to all of His followers.

Water baptism symbolizes Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:14). Water baptism portrays your sins being forgiven and cleansed. Your sins are forgiven when you confess them (1 John 1:9) and are cleansed by Jesus' shed blood (1 John 1:7). Your baptism shows others a vivid picture of that cleansing and forgiveness. Baptism itself does not secure your salvation—but it does identify you with Jesus Christ and His church. By being baptized, you are saying to the world, "My life is committed from this point forward totally and completely to Jesus Christ." The seriousness of this commitment and the symbol that baptism conveys to those who see it are incredible ways for you to share your faith.

Your Video Testimony

At St Joe, your baptism will be accompanied by a short video testimony which will be shown before your baptism. This will be an opportunity for you to share when and how you turned your life over to Jesus Christ. You can also thank family, friends and others who might have been instrumental in your decision.

Preparing for Your Video

The video testimony is strongly encouraged for baptism at St Joe. Now, *don't be nervous*—even if you are "camera shy" you'll not find this difficult. This guide will help you put a short "script" together for your testimony, and our video crew will make this process enjoyable for you. If you are a teenager or adult, you should complete this information yourself and bring it to your videotaping (time and location are written at the bottom of the back page). Mom or dad, if your child is being baptized, you can help them through this information and be with them during their videotaping.

Through this video, you will be sharing your story with all those who are present at your baptism. It's exciting to think that your baptism can help lead another person to Christ. After you read and answer the questions in this paper, you can contact pastor Greg Byman at 260-403-5255 or by e-mail gregbyman@gmail.com if you have any questions or need to schedule your baptism.

How to Write Your Testimony

Your “testimony” is simply the story of how you came to faith in Christ. It should include the following elements (which can be one or two sentences each):

- (1) What your life was like before you were a Christ-follower.
- (2) When and how you came to faith in Jesus Christ.
- (3) Any special or interesting circumstances surrounding your “conversion.”
- (4) A declaration that you have committed your life to Jesus Christ.
- (5) A thank you to anyone who helped you begin a relationship with Christ.

Now, that sounds like a lot of information—but really, it’s just a few sentences. In fact, for the purposes of your video testimony, it needs to be kept brief. We’ve found that the very best way to prepare for your video is to write out the answers to these questions and then actually write a paragraph version of what you will say in the video. On the next page, we’ve provided some room for you to write your answers to these questions. On the back, you’ll find a blank area to write out your actual testimony using the answers to these questions. Sample testimonies are written on the back page for you to refer to when writing your own.

Come Prepared!

It is very important that you answer these questions and bring your completed testimony with you to your videotaping. Experience suggests you will have difficulty doing this “on the fly” in front of the camera. It is our desire that your testimony be presented clearly. Please take adequate time to prepare before your taping.

A Special Note to Moms and Dads

Parents, your child is also strongly encouraged to give their testimony for baptism. Talking with them about their decision to follow Christ, and helping them through the answers to these questions, is a great way to affirm their decision and begin to build a foundation for their faith. Make sure they come prepared, and our video crew will help you and your child feel comfortable.

Instructions for Dress and the Actual Videotaping

Your videotaping should take about 5-7 minutes (that’s all!). You will be shot “waist up” (from your waist to the top of your head). You may want to bring a hairbrush or mirror with you for last minute “touch up.” Wear a dark, solid-color shirt. Do not wear a shirt with a slogan on it, a tank-top or a tube-top. Keep jewelry and makeup to a minimum. Do not wear hats, bandannas, and sunglasses it makes it difficult to see your lovely face.



Developing Your Story...

- (1) What was your life like before you were a Christ-follower?

Hints: Read Romans 3:23. Make it personal.

- (2) When and how did you come to faith in Jesus Christ?

Hints: Use a specific date if you can. What did you pray or talk about? Who did you speak with and why?

- (3) Were there special or interesting circumstances surrounding your “conversion?” *Hints: Medical condition? Family crisis? A unique place or time? Something interesting God showed you?*

- (4) Give a declaration that you have committed your life to Jesus Christ.

- (5) Write down the names of those who helped you begin a relationship with Christ. *Hint: Friends, mom or dad, a minister or pastor—this is optional.*

Need help? Hey, you can do this! First, talk with a Christian friend and let them help you answer these questions. If you still feel a little “stuck,” contact the Church Office at 260-471-4704 and a staff member will be happy to help you. Don’t give up—it’s worth it!