

TimberwoodChurch

FaithStory PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Thank you for being willing to share your **FaithStory** in services at Timberwood Church! Your **FaithStory** is a great opportunity to tell people how Jesus Christ has changed your life. People who hear your **FaithStory** are genuinely encouraged and challenged!

The purpose of the FaithStory at Timberwood Church is to support the value and importance of outreach in the life of our church. This is accomplished through you clearly telling the story of how you became a believer in Jesus Christ and/or how you are attempting to be a witness to others about Jesus Christ.

Here are some guidelines to assist you in preparing and sharing your **FaithStory**.

1. **Prayer:** Begin with prayer asking God to help you in this process.
2. **Content:** Please make clear how you came to believe in Jesus Christ and/or how you are sharing your faith with others.
 - a. **Be authentic – be you!**
 - **Tell your story** the way it happened – be real! Authenticity and honesty connect with listeners
 - Resist the **temptation to compare** your story with other FaithStories.
 - **Don't embellish** your story or dwell excessively on past sins. This is not public confession.
 - b. **Be intentional.**
 - Identify **one main idea** or theme you want to communicate through your FaithStory.
 - Always **enhance the reputation of Jesus Christ**. He is the one who has changed your life and given you forgiveness of sin and eternal life!
 - **Refrain from criticizing** or putting down people, groups, churches, etc.
 - c. **Be concise.**
 - * **Avoid clichés and language** that sound overly religious, i.e. “salvation”, “scripture” (use “the Bible”).
 - * **Make it interesting**, illustrate in a way that creates interest. Begin with a “hook” , i.e. a question, statement, or common experience that makes people want to listen to you.
 - * **Keep your story less than 5 minutes in length** (1 1/4 to 1 1/3 pages, single spaced, 12 pt. font).
 - * **Think in chapters or blocks** and bridge them together. The blocks can be: 1) what my life was like before I became a Christian 2) how I became a Christian 3) how Jesus has changed my life since I decided to follow Him. The three sections do not all have to be equal in length and content.
 - * Remember this is your **FaithStory**, not your life story!
And finally, be wise . . . Let Christ shine through you.

3. **Time:** It is *imperative that you do not go beyond five minutes* due to the concurrent schedule of worship services.
4. **Place and Program:** On Sunday morning please arrive at the Community Center to review the morning service programs. You will receive instructions on the service order; when to stand and share your **FaithStory**. Remember that you will be sharing your **FaithStory** in two Worship Services (9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.).
5. **Dress:** Wear something you feel comfortable in and enjoy wearing. Lean toward the “business casual” side, if possible.
6. **Preparation:**

1. Send a **written draft to John Just or Tom Wiegand approximately two weeks** before your FaithStory date. His e-mail address is John.Just@Timberwoodchurch.org. or tom.wiegand@timberwoodchurch.org Phone number is 218-967-8888. Timberwood’s fax number is 218-967-8889.
2. **Schedule a 60-minute meeting** with John Just or Tom Wiegand to review your FaithStory. Contact Alisa Den Hartog at 218-967-8888 during business hours to schedule the appointment.
3. Normally, each presenter will write three-four drafts before they have a final version of their FaithStory.

Thanks for sharing your FaithStory with us!

Submit your **FaithStory** Biographical Form to Alisa Den Hartog
at least one week before your presentation.