

## Making Friends for God: Lesson #11 — Sharing the Story of Jesus

### Memory Verse

**1 John 5:13** (NKJV) *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

Nothing argues more eloquently for the power of the gospel than a changed life. People may argue with your theology and debate about doctrines. They may call into question your understanding of the Scriptures, but they will rarely question your personal story of what Jesus means to you and has done in your life. Infomercials...approving crowd.

### Jesus: The Basis of Our Testimony

**Ephesians 2:1–10** (NKJV) *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Luke 8:39** (NKJV) *“Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.*

**Mark 5:32–34** (NKJV) *And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. <sup>33</sup> But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”*

**John 5:15** (NKJV) *The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.*

**Acts 12:16–17** (NKJV) *Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. <sup>17</sup> But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren.” And he departed and went to another place.*

I was saved from the fire this week. (Share story).

### The Transformative Power of Personal Testimony

**Mark 3:17** (NKJV) *James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, “Sons of Thunder”;*

**Luke 9:54–56** (NKJV) *And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” <sup>55</sup> But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. <sup>56</sup> For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” And they went to another village.*

In the Gospel and letters of John “love” is mentioned 110 times!

“In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, he was often warned and cautioned by the Saviour; and these reproofs he accepted. As the character of the Divine One was manifested to him, John saw his own deficiencies, and was humbled by the revelation. Day by day, in contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus, and heard His lessons of humility and patience. Day by day his heart was drawn out to Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for his Master. The power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, the strength and patience, that he saw in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration. He yielded his resentful, ambitious temper to the molding power of Christ, and divine love wrought in him a transformation of character.” AA, 557

**Luke 5:8–10** (NKJV) *When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”*

## Telling the Story of Jesus

**John 1:38–42** (NKJV) <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “*What do you seek?*” They said to Him, “*Rabbi*” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “*where are You staying?*” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “*Come and see.*” ... <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “*We have found the Messiah*” (which is translated, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “*You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas*” (which is translated, A Stone).

**John 1:45–46** (NKJV) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “*We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*” <sup>46</sup> And Nathanael said to him, “*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*” Philip said to him, “*Come and see.*” **Like Bartimaeus, We come to Jesus and we see.**

**John 4:28–30** (NKJV) The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, <sup>29</sup> “*Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?*” <sup>30</sup> Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

**John 4:39–42** (NKJV) And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “*He told me all that I ever did.*” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of His own word. <sup>42</sup> Then they said to the woman, “*Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.*”

**Acts 21:40–22:8** (NKJV) So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying, <sup>1</sup> “*Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now.*” <sup>2</sup> And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said: <sup>3</sup> “*I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.*” <sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, <sup>5</sup> as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished. <sup>6</sup> “*Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me.*” <sup>7</sup> And I fell to the

ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*’” <sup>8</sup> So I answered, ‘*Who are You, Lord?*’ And He said to me, ‘*I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.*’

**Acts 26:6–15** (NKJV) And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. <sup>7</sup> To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope’s sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. <sup>8</sup> Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead? <sup>9</sup> “*Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.*” <sup>10</sup> This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. <sup>11</sup> And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. <sup>12</sup> “*While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,*” <sup>13</sup> at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. <sup>14</sup> And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*’” <sup>15</sup> So I said, ‘*Who are You, Lord?*’ And He said, ‘*I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.*’

**2 Corinthians 11:23–28** (NKJV) Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. <sup>24</sup> From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; <sup>26</sup> in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; <sup>27</sup> in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—<sup>28</sup> besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

## Testifying With Assurance

**1 John 5:11–13** (NKJV) And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

**Hebrews 10:19–22** (NKJV) *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,<sup>21</sup> and having a High Priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

**Hebrews 3:6** (NKJV) *but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

### **I Cant Speak...?**

**Exodus 4:10–12** (NKJV) *Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”<sup>11</sup> So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?<sup>12</sup> Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”*

**Jeremiah 1:6–8** (ESV) *Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.”<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord.”*

**Jeremiah 1:9** (NKJV) *Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.*

**Isaiah 6:6–7** (NKJV) *Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.<sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”*

**Isaiah 51:16** (NKJV) *And I have put My words in your mouth;*

**Matthew 28:19–20** (NKJV) *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

### **Something Worth Testifying About**

**Psalms 107:2** (NKJV) *Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,*

**John 10:10** (NKJV) *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

**Galatians 2:20** (NKJV) *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

**Romans 6:6–7** (NKJV) *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.<sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

**Romans 8:1** (NKJV) *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*