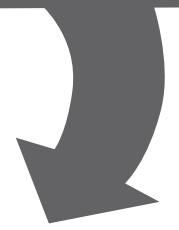


Sharing Your Faith Story



“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

- How prepared are you to share your faith story with your students?
- How would you present your testimony to a lively group of kids and live to tell about it?

▼ Training Session

The Scouts claim the motto “Be prepared.” But God thought of it first. He asks that we always be ready to share our faith. That means with a kid-size audience, too.

Your students need to know the reason for the hope you have. Show them how you’ve grown in your relationship with Jesus. It’s a great idea to share your faith story with your kids.

Children are a unique audience. So telling your story in a child-friendly way requires some unique preparation.

Kids need to know you’ve been where they are. Granted, you’ve lived before iPods, cell phones, and possibly even color TVs (an ancient invention, according to children). But every adult shares some measure of common ground with kids.

Did you hate math?

Did you feed your broccoli to the dog and lie to your mom about eating it?

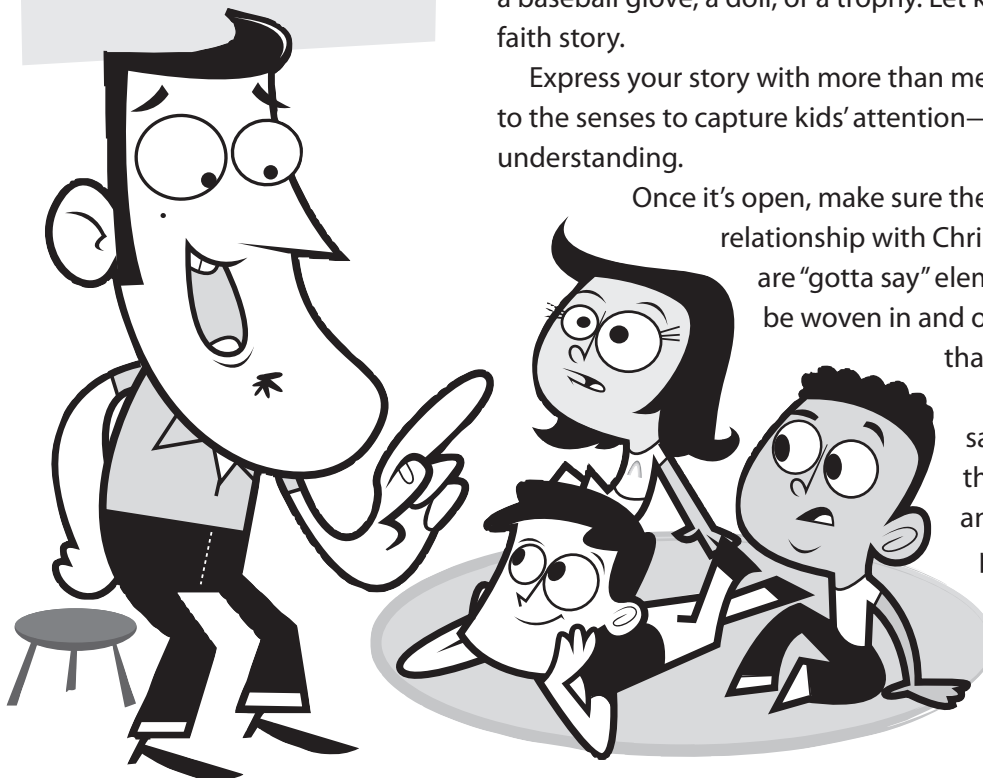
Did your grandpa teach you how to fish?

Building your faith story around familiar experiences connects shared territory. Plus, kids can see that you’ve been where they are. You can help kids tie *their* present with *your* past. Just use an object from your childhood: a baseball glove, a doll, or a trophy. Let kids touch it, feel it, as you tell your faith story.

Express your story with more than mere words. Use objects that appeal to the senses to capture kids’ attention—and to open the door of their understanding.

Once it’s open, make sure the message is clear. The need for a relationship with Christ and how to grow closer to him are “gotta say” elements of any faith story. They should be woven in and out of your experiences in words that are easily understood.

The undiluted message of salvation, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, can be understood and received by any child. It’s your privileged duty to make the Gospel message clear. God will draw to himself those who hear the good news and receive it.





Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- What common ground from your childhood do you share with the kids you teach?
- In what unique, off-the-wall way can your faith story be seen and heard? eaten? touched? smelled?
- What are four “gotta say” points that you must not leave out of your faith story so kids can see what a growing relationship with Jesus is like?

▼ Journal

My faith story is unique. I came to faith in Christ...

You have a salvation story that can be shared in any number of ways. Ask God to help you develop a pint-size faith story, then let him empower you to share it. By God’s grace, your story will plant the seeds of salvation in the heart of a child.

▼ Application

Recount a major childhood memory that your kids will relate to. Build your faith story around that experience. Imagine that you have only five to seven minutes in which to share the plan of salvation with a 10-year-old. Try to use each of the five senses. How would you creatively share your faith story, keeping the message of salvation clear?