

CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

My Faith Story

*"Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples!"
Psalm 96:3*

Tips on writing your
own faith story



Church of
St Francis Xavier

Which Faith Story?

The Lord's invitation:

- Recognise in **humility** that writing our faith stories to be shared is firstly, an invitation from the Lord.
- We all have multiple faith encounters throughout our lives. So, enter into **prayer** and ask the Lord to reveal to you which encounter He desires you to write on.
- The type of faith stories you write about can also be dependent on your target audience. Type of faith stories:
 - > *From fear to strength*
 - > *From despair to hope*
 - > *From guilt to acceptance*
 - > *From hatred to love*
 - > *From aimlessness to purpose*
 - > *From rebellion to obedience*

"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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."



Guidelines

- **Simplicity:** Your faith story should not be longer than 5 to 10 minutes. It should have a "plot" that is easy to follow!
- **Christ-centred:** Always remember that our faith stories are meant to glorify God and to speak of His mercy and goodness in our lives. Do not dwell too long on the past, on your sinfulness. Share the context of your pre-encounter, but do not give excessive details to prevent glorification of our sins.
- **Accessibility:** Avoid using too religious and technical terms.
- **Thematic structure:** Create a single overarching theme or analogy. Every point of your story should relate to this theme.
- Remember that your faith story is precious, and have faith that it will speak to and encourage others in their faith journeys.

"Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

Pope Paul VI



My Faith Story

Act 1: My life before I knew Jesus Christ

Pick a unifying theme eg. a familiarity with Christ but no personal knowledge of him, loneliness, spiritual hunger, a life of sin, emptiness, false images of God.

Act 2: How I came to know Jesus Christ

What happened? Even if conversion is gradual, should still have one concrete moment or turning point for audience to grasp. Avoid over-dramatising and also keep it Christ-centred.

Act 3: My life in Jesus Christ

What changes have occurred in my life? How has my relationship with Jesus changed? Listeners need to know the significance of a relationship with Jesus. Avoid extremes - do not make yourself sound like a perfected saint.

Act 4: Challenge & invitation to the audience

Ask the audience implicitly or explicitly: How will you respond to Jesus Christ? Remember the purpose of sharing is to lead someone to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

"And the gospel must first be preached to all nations." Mark 13:10



An Example

Saint Paul's Faith Story:

Act 1: Pre-conversion, life before encounter (Acts 26: 1-11)
Shares about his past; theme is his devotion to Judaism (30%)

Act 2: Conversion, the encounter (Acts 26: 12-18)
Shares about the encounter that led to his conversion (30%)

Act 3: Post-Conversion, life after encounter (Acts 26:19-23)
Shares how his life has changed since the encounter (30%)

Act 4: Challenge & invitation to the audience (Acts 26:27-29)
Invites King Agrippa explicitly for his response after hearing the testimony of Jesus Christ (10%)

"I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ."

Philemon 1:6

