

STORY
TESTIMONY
INVITATION



What is STI?

STI stands for **Story - Testimony - Invitation**.

It is a simple tool you can use to start a conversation about Jesus Christ and our need to believe in Him. Here is how it works:

1. STORY

If your loved one or friend has watched "Godspell - The Musical"...

Begin by asking your friend which parable (or "story") presented in *Godspell - The Musical* was meaningful to him and why. Allow him time to share. You can find the Scripture references and a brief explanation of each parable in the following pages of this booklet.

If your loved one or friend has not watched "Godspell - The Musical"...

Find an opportunity to have a reasonably uninterrupted conversation with your loved one or friend. If he or she begins to share about issues or problems in his or her life, think about which parable deals with the issues being shared.

2. TESTIMONY

Share which parable was especially meaningful to you. Ideally, it is the same parable which your friend can relate to. Link this to your testimony of how you came to know the Lord Jesus. For example, if the story of the Good Samaritan stood out for you, you may share how a Christian's kindness showed you God's love. Perhaps you were not open to Christ at that time but this extraordinary gesture of kindness caused you to realise that God does care for you, and you received Christ as the result of being touched by His love through a believer.

3. INVITATION

Gauge the spiritual readiness of your friend. For example, if your friend believes all religions are the same, he is at Level 1 (refer to chart on page 14). Then do acts of kindness such as helping him to complete a task or inviting him for a meal. If your friend is at Level 3, build the friendship through common interests and look for an opportunity to share your testimony. And if your friend is at Level 5, share the gospel and invite your friend to receive Christ as Lord and Saviour!

STORY & TESTIMONY

THE PERSISTENT WIDOW (UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE BY GOD)

Luke 18:1-8

STORY

Jesus told this story to illustrate that we can always approach God without fear or doubt. The point is not that persistence and constant pestering will make God change His mind, but that we His children are never turned away by our Father who loves us.

TESTIMONY

Link this story to situations in your life where you were afraid or ashamed to turn to God for help. Share how God assured you of His love when you finally approached Him. Describe how the unconditional acceptance of God strengthened your faith and changed the way you relate to Him.

THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

(SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS VERSUS HUMILITY)

Luke 18:9-14

STORY

In this story, Jesus explains how God sees righteousness. God does not value prayers and good works when we do them for the sake of looking good to others or even to God. Instead, He treasures it when we acknowledge that without His grace and mercy, there is nothing we can do to become righteous.

TESTIMONY

When you were a non-Christian, what did you do to gain approval from people? Even when you became a Christian, you might have continued to do things just so that others would think you are a good Christian. Share about how you came to the realisation that God sees beyond “doing the right thing”. What happened after you turned to God for mercy?

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT (FORGIVENESS)

Matthew 18:23-35

STORY

The focus of this story is forgiveness. Having received the gift of forgiveness from God, we are to forgive those who “owe” us. Treat people with love and kindness!

TESTIMONY

Can you remember times when you asked for forgiveness but found only cruel responses? How did you feel then? Share a time when you experienced God’s forgiveness. Compare that to the harsh responses in the past and share how that made you feel.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN (UNCONDITIONAL LOVE)

Luke 10:25-37

STORY

In this story, Jesus explains that we are to show kindness and goodness not only to those we like, but even to those we call “enemies”. God does not care for religious roles, titles and sacrifices. He is pleased when we show mercy and compassion. When we extend a helping hand to people in need, we are “loving our neighbour as ourselves” as Jesus has commanded.

TESTIMONY

Share how (during your pre-believer days) a Christian’s kindness made you realise God’s love. Perhaps you did not even like that person, but he or she was exceptionally kind to you anyway. Elaborate how you eventually realised that the person who was kind to you was simply displaying God’s love for you.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS (MATERIALISM)

Luke 16:19-31

STORY

Through this story, Jesus is telling us to live our earthly lives based on God's Kingdom values. There are no more second chances after we die.

TESTIMONY

Material possessions might have meant a lot to you in the past. Then something happened and you realised how futile and meaningless it was to pursue material gains. Share how you re-prioritised your lifestyle and the changes that happened to your life (spiritual and physical) when you did that.

THE RICH FOOL (DECEPTFULNESS OF RICHES)

Luke 12:13-21

STORY

Riches give people a false sense of security. It makes us forget that we have to settle accounts with God eventually. Material things are not wrong in themselves unless they become the sole focus in life. Jesus warns us that life is unpredictable. We must set our priorities right and be prepared for His return.

TESTIMONY

Think of the days when your main goal in life was to earn money, to gain security, power and recognition. When did your bubble burst? Share how you realised that life was not just about yourself and what you had, but about a relationship with God.

THE SOWER (RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL)

Matthew 13:3-9

STORY

There are four basic groups of people:

a. Indifferent

Those with no understanding of the Gospel and are unwilling to learn more.

b. Superficial

Those who have accepted the Gospel without genuine repentance.

c. Materialistic

Those who have accepted the Gospel but are more concerned with material things.

d. Receptive

Those who have accepted the Gospel with true repentance. They will be spiritually blessed.

TESTIMONY

Think of a time when you turned away from God because of worries or a desire for material wealth. Share how you came back to the Lord. You can also explain what made you turn back to the Lord. Next, share how you have been spiritually blessed ever since, for example, having real joy from knowing that God loves you.

THE TWO SONS (RELIGIOSITY VERSUS TRUE REPENTANCE)

Matthew 21:28-32

STORY

This story describes the responses of two sons to their father's instructions. The first son represents sinners who accept and obey the teachings of Jesus. The second represents those who inwardly reject and disobey God while doing "religious stuff" like praying and going to church. Salvation is for all who willingly repent. People who see themselves as righteous never really turn to God.

TESTIMONY

Share how God convicted you of your disobedience when you were living life your own way, yet calling Jesus "Lord". Have people ever said to you (directly or indirectly) that if Christians were like you, they would not want to be Christians? How did that make you feel? What changes took place? You may also share the testimony of a really "bad" person you know who changed after turning to Christ.

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

(BEING SELF-CENTRED VERSUS GOD-CENTRED)

Matthew 25:31-46

STORY

In the story, we are told that God's kingdom is not just private and spiritual. It is also practical and down-to-earth. Jesus cares for the poor and the needy. He has instructed His people to be a caring community. As followers of Christ, we obey Him through word and deed. Although we do not get to heaven through good works, we do them to demonstrate God's love for the poor and needy.

TESTIMONY

Share how you, or other people you know, have volunteered for mercy projects to help the needy. (Examples: volunteering your services in an earthquake disaster site, going on a medical mission team to a war-torn country, regularly visiting old folks homes, orphanages or hospitals to bring cheer and help to the needy etc). Or share how a Christian's good works demonstrated God's love to you, resulting in you giving your life to Jesus.

THE PRODIGAL SON (SECOND CHANCES)

Luke 15:11-31

STORY

God is always looking out for those who have left Him. He is like the father who is ever ready to welcome back his children when they realise their wrong and return to Him. Like our Father, we should also welcome those who turn from their godless ways and want to return to God.

TESTIMONY

Share about the time when, as a believer, you had given up on God and Christianity. Some people call this “backsliding”. What made you disillusioned with God or the church? In the period you turned away from God, how did you lead your life? Describe what made you decide to dedicate your life to God again.

As a believer, do you think that there are people who are beyond all hopes of salvation, for example convicted murderers, rapists or gangsters? Share testimonies of people who turned to God and received His mercy.

INVITATION

LEVEL	SPIRITUAL READINESS
1	No Awareness of Christianity Believes all religions are the same.
2	Aware But Not Receptive Distorted views of Christianity. Negative impressions of Christianity.
3	Open to You the Messenger Recognise value differences. Desires more information.
4	Beginning to Understand Willing to explore Christianity.
5	Ready to Accept Christ Seeking for God.

NOTE

This is only a rough guide. Be open to the Holy Spirit's leading. A person who is in pain, trauma or crisis is more open to receiving help from God. Someone who had an encounter with God is normally more open to accept Christ.

APPROACH

Connect

Do acts of kindness.

Seed-Sowing

Do acts of kindness.

Give gospel tracts.

Bonding

Build friendship through common interests.

Share testimony.

Witnessing

Share testimony.

Pass relevant materials.

Invite to evangelistic meetings.

Conversion

Share the gospel.

Invite to receive Christ.

Lead in prayer to receive Christ.



To be a
Christ-centred
community,
meeting needs
God's way.

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