Soul-Winning Commitment Day

Sunday School/Small Group Lessons
Purpose of Lesson:
This guide is for the purpose of preparing older children through adult Sunday school members to understand the importance of sharing their personal story/testimony.

Preparation:
Use the PowerPoint presentation included in the download file.
Copy enough of the Save to Share Listening Guides for each of your class members.

Lesson:
Someone has observed that there are only two kinds of Christians in this world:

1. Those who talk about the lost.
2. Those who talk to the lost.

Which one are you?
You have not been saved just to sit in church, or to soak up truth, or to sing in a choir, or even to send missionaries around the world. You have been saved to share. Do you know what God’s greatest tool is to reach other people for Jesus Christ? Your personal testimony!

I. Recount Our Condition Before Christ
Every life can be chronologically divided the same way our calendar is—B.C. which is “before Christ,” and A.D. which is “after Christ.” As Paul stands before King Agrippa, he begins by describing his life B.C.—before Christ. Paul describes himself as religious.

“Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You are permitted to speak for yourself.’ So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee” (Acts 26:1-5, NKJV).

Paul was a Hebrew by birth, a Roman citizen, raised in the Greek city of Tarsus and had studied at the feet of one of the greatest Jewish rabbis of all time. Most importantly, he was a Pharisee. They were meticulously, painstakingly religious.

Paul is a picture of every person born into this world. Paul was not born a believer in Jesus Christ; he had to become one. No one is born a Christian.

Paul had to realize what we need to realize, which is being born into a religious family or raised in a church does not make us a Christian anymore than being born in a garage makes us an automobile. We are all born in unbelief. To give an effective testimony, we must go back to the time in our life before we received Christ, and understand our condition before Christ, which was to be separated from God, lost in sin, and in need of forgiveness.
II. Recall Our Conversion to Christ

There have been many remarkable conversions in the history of Christianity, but none more remarkable than Paul the apostle. One meeting on a dirt road heading out of Jerusalem to Damascus resulted in the gospel being carried to the center of the Roman Empire and one-half of the books of the New Testament being written. Paul shifts the conversation from his past, before he met the Lord, to his experience of meeting the risen Christ.

“While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 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. 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.’ So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting’” (Acts 26:12-15, NKJV).

Paul’s religion collapsed like a house of cards. He finally realized he did not need religion; he needed redemption. He did not need Judaism; he needed Jesus.

Paul had seen a new light. He was now under a new Lord. He was filled with a new love. He was a changed man; not just from the outside in, but from the inside out, and it happened at a certain time and a certain place. For salvation to occur, a person must accept a definite Savior at a definite time at a definite place. That experience becomes one’s personal testimony.

Can we point to a time in our lives when we, too, had an encounter with Jesus Christ; realized that our religion and our righteousness were of no use in being saved; understood that Jesus Christ died on the cross and was raised from the dead to pay for our sins; and therefore we repented of our sins and by faith asked Christ into our hearts? That is the key question we must continuously ask ourselves throughout this entire lesson.

III. Recommend Our Confession of Christ

Paul was not finished and as King Agrippa was to learn to his sorrow, Paul was not on the defense, he was on the offense. He was a prisoner, true. But he was also hoping to take prisoners for the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, that is the very reason that Jesus saved him. “But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you” (Acts 26:16, NKJV). Now the Lord Jesus expressly told Paul why he appeared to him and why He saved him . . . to make him a minister. The Greek word there literally means “under-rower” which referred to a sailor under command of the captain.

From this point on, Pau was to march to the orders of his Commander in Chief, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God had called Paul to be a messenger. He was literally saved to share. His job was to go to every person that he possibly could get to without Christ, “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:18, NKJV). Notice that as a witness Paul was to do two things:
1. Share his testimony.
2. Call for a decision on the part of those with whom he was sharing.

As Paul went about Damascus, Jerusalem, and all Judea, sharing what Christ had done for him, he would then share that “they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance” (Acts 26:20, NKJV).

Our job as witnesses for Christ is to simply tell the truth about Him, share our testimony, and call people to repentance, redemption, and righteousness.

At first, it appears as if Paul was unsuccessful. “Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian’” (Acts 26:28, NKJV). We would think that it was all for naught because Agrippa did not come to Christ. But listen carefully. Paul was successful because he was faithful. He was indeed “obedient to the heavenly vision.” Any witness is successful when he or she simply testifies to the truth of Jesus Christ, shares the story of his or her own conversion, and leaves the results to God.
Someone has observed that there are only two kinds of Christians in this world:
Those who talk _______ the lost.
Those who talk ______ the lost.

Every true Christian has in his or her heart perhaps the single most powerful tool available to be an effective witness for Christ: a ____________ ____________.

I. Recount our ______________ before Christ
Every life can be chronologically divided the same way “___________ Christ, and ________ Christ.”

We are all born in _________. Until we believe in and receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are ________________ Him.

To give an effective testimony, we must go back to the time in our life before we received Christ, and understand our condition before Christ, which was to be ______________ from God, lost in ___________ , and in need of ________________.

II. Recall our ______________ to Christ
Every Christian has been ______________ or else he or she is not a Christian. Like Paul, any Christian, through the power of the ____________ ____________, can simply tell his or her story of conversion—how he or she came to know Christ as Savior and as Lord.

It is so important to understand that no one ______________ becomes a Christian. A person may gradually come to the point where they want to become a Christian, but for salvation to occur, a person must accept a ______________ Savior at a definite time at a ______________ place.

III. Recommend our _________________ of Christ
Our job as witnesses for Christ is to simply tell the _____________ about Him, share our testimony, and then call people to ________________, _____________, and _________________.

Any witness is ______________ when he or she simply testifies to the truth of Jesus Christ, shares the story of his or her own conversion, and leaves the ______________ to God.
Soul-Winning Commitment Day

Sunday School/Small Group Bible Study
Personal Story/Testimony

**Purpose of Lesson:**
This guide is for the purpose of preparing older children through adult Sunday School members to prepare their personal story/testimony.

**Preparation:**
Make sure you have prepared your personal testimony prior to teaching this lesson and be ready to share it with your class.
Copy enough of the Personal Testimony Worksheets for each of your class members.

Use the PowerPoint presentation included.

**Say:**
In today’s lesson, we will be learning how to develop and share our personal story/testimony with someone who needs Jesus. God can use our personal testimonies to reach others for Christ. Every one of us who is a follower of Jesus has a story to tell.

Your story will include three parts:

1. My life before I made a commitment to follow Jesus.
2. How I came to know Jesus personally.
3. My life since I came to know Jesus personally.

Begin to think about your personal encounter with Jesus, specifically, your life before you came to Christ.

Also, begin to think about someone that you know who needs Jesus. It may be a friend, a family member, or a neighbor.

Teacher, share your personal story/testimony with the class as an example.

**Say:**
The first part of our personal story/testimony is: “My life before I made a commitment to follow Jesus”.

Think about what your life was like before you came to Christ. Remember your feelings such as emptiness, loneliness, lack of purpose, and how you discovered you needed a change in your life. As we think about this part of our story/testimony, keep in mind the following important considerations:

1. If you know Jesus, you have a story to tell.
2. Your story is unique.
3. It is not debatable, it happened to you.
4. It is powerful; it can change lives for eternity.

If you accepted Christ at a very young age, you may have had a “defining moment,” when you became aware of what your relationship to Jesus meant and the commitment you had made. Someone who became a Christian at an early age could describe how their lives would have been different without such a relationship with Jesus.

Take time to allow each of your class members to write this first part.

**Before concluding this session:**
- Have a volunteer to briefly describe his or her life before a commitment was made to follow Jesus.
- Encourage the class to continue to think about this part of their story/testimony at home this week.
- Encourage them this week to think back to the particular instant when they made a commitment to follow Jesus. Where were they? Who were they with? How did it happen?
- Have the class members pray for the person...
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Sunday School/Small Group Bible Study
Personal Story/Testimony
(continued)

whose name they brought with them to class who needs to know Jesus.

Say:
The second part of your testimony is: “How I came to know Jesus personally.” This is where we communicate our salvation experience. Think back to how you came to know Jesus as your personal Savior.

• Was it in a church service?
• Did a friend lead you to Christ?
• Where did it happen?

This part of our story/testimony should be brief and to the point.
List some of the places where class members were when they accepted Christ and the person who shared with them.

Take time to allow each of your class members to write this second part.

Before concluding this second part:
• Ask a volunteer to briefly describe how he or she came to faith in Christ.
• Ask for another volunteer to share parts one and two of their story/testimony.

Say:
The third part of our personal story/testimony is: “My life since I came to know Jesus personally.” This is where we communicate how our lives are different because we made a commitment to follow Jesus.

• Think about your salvation experience and how your life is different as a result of having trusted Jesus as your Savior.
• Some of you may indicate in this section how you have experienced peace, love, acceptance, and/or purpose.
• Remember, it is your story and He is your Savior!
• What has He done in your life?
• List some of their responses on the board.

Take time to allow each of your class members to write this third part.

Before concluding this lesson:
• Ask for a volunteer to share how his or her life is different since coming to Christ.
• Ask for another volunteer to share part one, part two, and part three of their personal story/testimony.
• Encourage your class to continue to pray for the person whose name they brought to class who needs to know Jesus.
• Encourage the class to make to share their testimony with them or another lost person.
• Close in prayer.
Personal Story/Testimony Worksheet

1. My life before I made a commitment to follow Jesus:

2. How I came to know Jesus personally:

3. My life since I came to know Jesus personally: