

## Discipleship: Lesson 11

### How To Put Your Testimony to Work

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### Objectives

- ☐ Develop an understanding of basic Scriptures explaining the importance & how-tos of personal witnessing. Acts 26:1-29, Colossians 4:2-6, 1 Peter 3:15.
- ☐ Learn the basic ingredients of a personal testimony and have an opportunity to prepare and present it.
- ☐ Memorize 1 Peter 3:15.

## How To Put Your Testimony to Work

### Key Questions

- ☐ 1 Peter 3:15, says that we should always be prepared to give an answer. Why is that important (See 2 Peter 3:9)?
- ☐ What is the most effective way to make the most out of every opportunity? Colossians 4:2-6
- ☐ In Acts 26, Paul gives his testimony before King Agrippa and Governor Festus. How can this serve as a model for your testimony? What is in this testimony that you can learn from?

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### Major Concepts

- ☐ Be Prepared
  - ☐ 1 Peter 3:15
- ☐ Making the Most Out of Every Opportunity
  - ☐ Colossians 4:2-6
- ☐ A Model Testimony from Paul
  - ☐ Acts 26

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- ☐ Be Prepared 1 Peter 3:15
  - ☐ When are we to be prepared?
  - ☐ What are we to be prepared to do?
  - ☐ What does the phrase, "the hope that you have," mean?

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### Making the Most Out of Every Opportunity

- Colossians 4:2-6
  - ☐ What activity, in verse 2 (& beginning of v3), are the first and ongoing steps in witnessing?
  - ☐ What are the 3 specific prayer requests Paul makes concerning his witness in verses 3 & 4?
  - ☐ What does Paul mean by asking God to "open a door for the message (word)?" Who opens the door? Who proclaims the word?
  - ☐ How are we to act towards outsiders? Who are they?
  - ☐ What are we instructed to do with the opportunity? (See KJV)
  - ☐ How are we to "always" speak? What determines how you will be able to respond? (v6)

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- ☞ A Model Testimony from Paul Acts 26
  - ☐ Gracious introduction: v2-3
  - ☐ Good part of past life: v4-5
  - ☐ Bad part of past life: v9-11
  - ☐ Circumstances of conversion: v12-15
  - ☐ Results of conversion: v16-22
  - ☐ Gospel message: v23
  - ☐ Personal appeal: v27-29?

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- ☞ A Model Testimony from Paul Acts 26
  - ☐ How is Paul's opportunity to make his defense to Agrippa described? v2-3
  - ☐ Why is the information in v4-5 shared?
  - ☐ How does what he says in v9-11 compare to v4-5?
  - ☐ What happened to him in v12-15 to turn him to Jesus?
  - ☐ Why did Christ appear, and what was Paul's response in v16-22?
  - ☐ What is the gospel message in v23?
  - ☐ What is Paul's appeal in v27-29?

## How To Put Your Testimony to Work

- ☞ Prepare Your Story
  - ☐ Life Before You Trusted Christ  
(good & bad: be open and give examples)
  
  - ☐ How You Came To Christ  
(be specific - lots of detail - make it personal & include specifically what you came to believe)
  
  - ☐ Life After You Trusted Christ  
(changes He has made & what He means to me now)

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- ☞ Helpful Hints:
  - ☐ Speak to God first. Ask Him to speak through you & to the heart of the one you are witnessing to.
  - ☐ Follow the model: Life before, How you came to Christ, & Life after.
  - ☐ Use some Scripture if appropriate. But don't over do it.
  - ☐ Avoid:
    - ☐ statements that reflect negatively on others or organizations
    - ☐ mentioning denominations
    - ☐ preaching at people (just tell your story)
    - ☐ using stereotypes
    - ☐ terms meaningless to non-Christians: "sanctified," "saved" ...
  - ☐ It's important to emphasize Christ

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- ☞ Approach Questions to determine a person's spiritual condition:
  - ☐ Are you interested in spiritual things?
  - ☐ Have you ever thought of becoming a Christian?
  - ☐ If someone were to ask you, "What is a Christian?," what would you say?
- ☞ Tell the gospel
- ☞ Make your appeal