



SHARE
YOUR STORY

SESSION 1 - Why Story Matters

The Mission of CCV is to

- Win people to Christ
- Train believers to become disciples
- Send disciples out to impact the world

Together we are going to Reach This Valley for Jesus Christ.

The most effective form of evangelism is **YOUR STORY**.

Your Story is...

- Authentic
- Not up for debate
- Not something new you need to memorize

Over these next four sessions our goal is to equip you with practical tools for sharing your story, telling others about Jesus, and inviting friends to CCV.

The Power of Story

- Stories inspire us and call us to something greater.
- Stories are relatable and increase our capacity for empathy.
- Stories teach us through the success and failure of the characters involved.

The Bible's Use of Story

- The Bible is filled with a series of biographies and stories about people who both succeeded and failed in their relationships with God and others.
- Jesus made complicated concepts simple and relatable by using parables.
- God's story and his love for man is told throughout the Bible. We actually get to read the final chapter, Revelation, before it even happens.

The Parts of a Story

- The Character – Who the story is about.
- The Crisis – The series of challenges the Character faces.
- The Crossing Point – The climax of the story where an event or choice brings resolve out of the Crisis.
- The Change – A new outcome or perspective as a result of the Crisis and Crossing Point.

Storyboard Instructions

Using the sticky notes provided. In your workbook write the following information and place it in your storyboard in chronological order.

1. Write down some of the major milestone events of your life. Place them on your storyboard in chronological order.
 - Impactful childhood memories
 - Moving to a new city
 - Marriages & divorces
 - Births & deaths
 - Job changes
 - Choosing to follow Jesus and get baptized
2. Write down how old you were during those milestone events. Place those sticky notes at the top.
3. Write the names of key people who were in your life during those milestones. Make sure to include those who left both a positive and negative impact. Place those sticky notes at the bottom.
4. Write down emotions or life lessons you learned through each of those milestone events and place those sticky notes in the middle.

YOUR STORY

AGE	
MILESTONE OR EVENT	
EMOTIONS	
LESSONS LEARNED	
KEY PEOPLE	

RYBOARD

SESSION 2 - Your Story

How to Share Your Story

Most people are not looking for a theological confrontation – they are looking for a Conversation. Through studying your storyboard and developing your 60 second story you will be able to share your story in a way that is Clear and Concise.

Study Your Storyboard

- Study your storyboard and identify the key events or milestones that had a major impact on your life.
- Identify the time, location, and key people that were a part of your life when you made a decision to follow Jesus.
- Track any changes in action or outlook that took place after becoming a follower of Jesus.

Organizing Your Story

1. Before I Met Jesus:
 - List one or two of the challenges or events you faced prior to becoming a Christian.
 - What emotions or struggles were you facing at that time?
2. How I Met Jesus:
 - When did you make a decision to follow Jesus?
 - When were you Baptized?
 - Who were some of the key people in your life that helped to lead you to Jesus?
3. The Difference Jesus Makes:
 - List one or two key changes that have taken place in your life since following Jesus.
 - Don't be afraid to include trials or difficulties that you still face.
 - Make sure to highlight changes in perspective that you now have.

On pages 7 & 8, using your storyboard, develop an outline for your story on why you follow Jesus and why you attend CCV.

SESSION 2 - Your Story

Common Questions about Sharing Your Story

1. What if I started following Jesus as a child and I don't have a dramatic point of crisis?

If you grew up in a Christian home, that in and of itself is an amazing testimony. You can speak to the example that was given to you by your family and your desire to walk in their footsteps. You can share the difference that Jesus makes each day, especially through the trials and difficulties that you've faced. We've all faced something, how did Jesus help you through that something?

2. Should I stick to the script?

No – nothing would be weirder than you busting out in a rehearsed speech. The idea is to be comfortable with your story. It should be a natural part of who you are. Also, each of us probably have about 10 starting points that we could share which bridge from before to after we met Jesus. That's why the storyboard project is so important. By knowing your story and how God led you to a relationship with him, you can relate to a lot of different people in a lot of different situations.

3. Why a 60 second story? I've got a lot to say.

We encourage you to try and be concise for your first pass at your story. If you were at a coffee and someone asked, "Why are you a Christian?" You should be able to give a simple answer in 60 seconds or less, and then allow the person who asked to investigate further. You see, it's their follow up question that will truly reveal what is weighing on their heart and mind. Is it a question about a past pain? They may be looking for hope. Is it a question about Jesus? They may be looking for some theological understanding. Is it a question on life best practices that you've learned as a result of a Biblical truth? They may be looking to see what difference being a Jesus follower actually makes. If, instead of giving them an opportunity to talk you just droned on for 15 minutes, they are probably going to be trying to figure out how to leave rather than being intrigued by what you said.

Why I Follow Jesus

Using elements from your storyboard, fill in the blanks below. Practice sharing your story out loud with a friend. Make it your goal to be able to share your story in 60 seconds or less.

1. My Life Before Jesus

2. How I Met Jesus

3. The Difference Jesus Makes

Why I Go to CCV

Using elements from your storyboard, fill in the blanks below. Practice sharing your story out loud with a friend. Make it your goal to be able to share your story in 60 seconds or less.

1. Previous Church/Religious Experience

2. How I Was Introduced to CCV

3. The Difference CCV Has Made In My Life

SESSION 3 - God's Story in Four Simple Truths

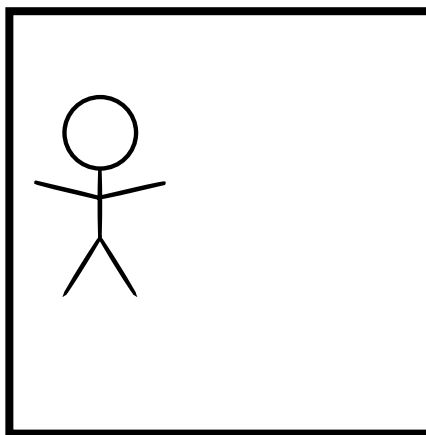
The Characters: You & Me

Simple Truth: God Made Us.

Key Verse: Genesis 1:27 (NLT), "So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Supporting Passages: John 10:10

Bridge Statement: "This means that we were made with a purpose and a plan. We were made in God's image and given his attributes, including free will. However, that free will led to our Crisis."



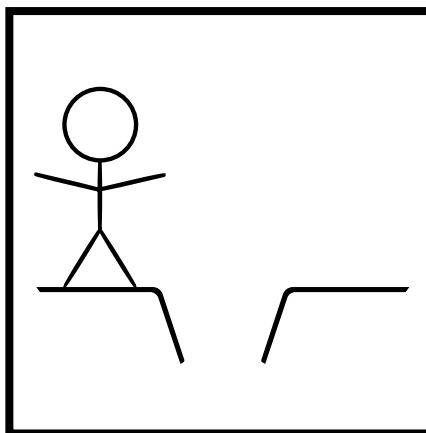
The Crisis: Sin

Simple Truth: Sin Separates Us.

Key Verse: Romans 3:23 (NLT) "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Supporting Passages: Romans 6:23, Romans 3:10, Isaiah 59:2, James 2:10

Bridge Statement: "Sin is disobedience to God. We sin when we don't show love to God or love to others. Because we fail to meet God's standard of perfection we need to understand that sin separates us. The good news is that God is full of grace and he has a rescue plan."



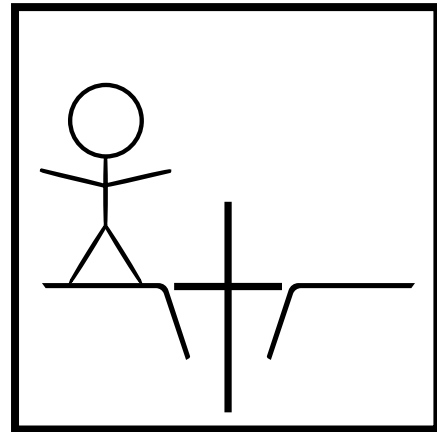
The Crossing Point: Believing that Jesus is God's Son who died for our sins.

The Simple Truth: Jesus Saves Us

Key Verse: John 3:16 (NLT) "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Supporting Passages: Romans 5:8, Hebrews 9:22, John 14:6, Ephesians 2:8-9

Bridge Statement: "God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. The Crossing Point: we all face is whether or not we believe that Jesus saves us from our sins and whether or not we will choose to follow him. The power of sin was defeated on the cross. The Change we experience is a New Life through Jesus."



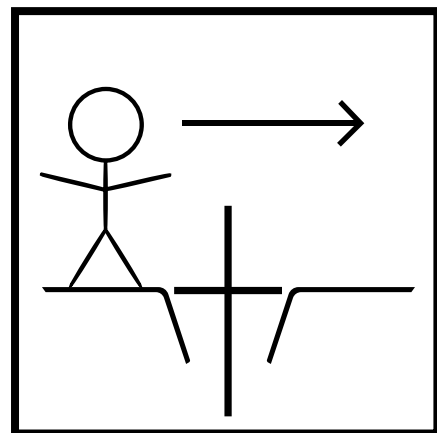
The Change: Living a new life where Jesus is your Lord (leader).

The Simple Truth: Jesus Leads Us

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

Supporting Passages: Galatians 2:20, Galatians 5:22-23,

Bridge Statement: I believe that God Made Us to be with him but the wrong choices I've made, my sin, has separated me from God. However, because of God's grace, Jesus died on the cross to save us. I have made a decision to follow him and make Jesus the leader of my life. That is the hope I have in Christ. I would love for you to experience that same hope that I've found. Can I share with you more about Jesus, or would you like to come to CCV with me to discover more about what it means to be a Christian?



A simple prayer you can pray with someone who wants to make a decision to follow Jesus:

"Dear God, I realize I need You in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for me. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me grow now as a Christian."

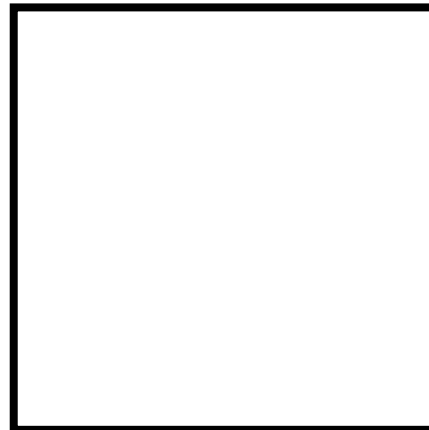
Practice Telling God's Story

Instructions:

1. Fill in the Four Simple Truths
2. In your own words, write out the key Bible verse
3. Use the box to draw the gospel illustration

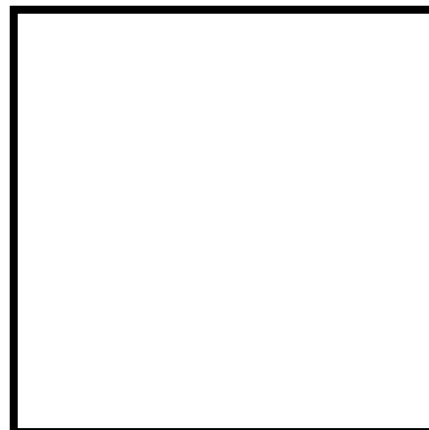
Truth #1: _____

Genesis 1:27 says, _____



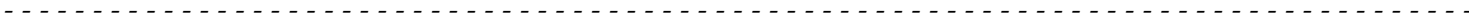
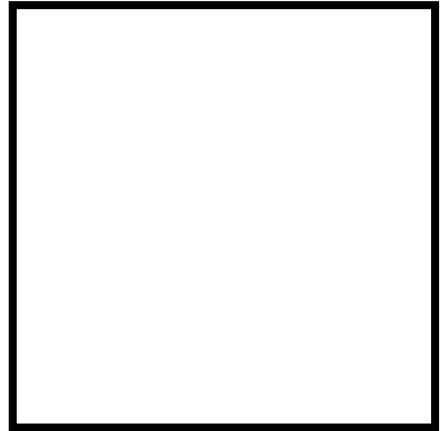
Truth #2: _____

Romans 3:23 says, _____



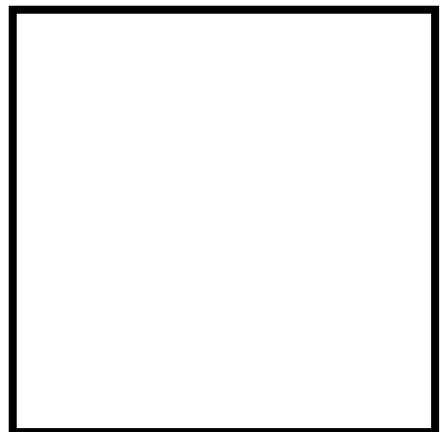
Truth #3: _____

John 3:16 says, _____



Truth #4: _____

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, _____



SESSION 4 - Share the Story

Listen for Opportunities to share your story, or invite someone to church

- "What did you do this weekend?"
- "What did you do when you lost your job?"
- "Why are you always so happy?"
- "How have you been able to keep your marriage together for so long?"

When people ask those types of questions, it's your opportunity to share the hope you have in Christ.

What's the best way to give an invitation to join you at CCV?

- Give a specific time – What service do you attend/ how long does it take to park, check-in kids, get a coffee?
- Give a specific meeting place – Where will they find you once they are on the campus?
- Give an invitation to eat together – Invite them to eat or grab a coffee with you afterwards. This gives you an opportunity to talk and hear their story.
 - **Bad Example:** Hey Tom, you guys should come to church with us sometime.
 - **Good Example:** Hey Tom, how about you and your family join us at the 6:00 service Saturday night. You guys can meet us there at 5:30 in front of the kids building, we'll help you get checked in and then afterwards we'd love to get you guys some burgers, hang out and let the kids run around.

Ask Follow Up Questions

- So what did you think? – Begin by asking a general question that allows your friend to lead the conversation. Their response will be a strong indicator to their responsiveness to Christ.
- How does CCV compare to any past church experiences you've had? – This question helps to give you an understanding of their religious background.
- What did you think of the pastor's message? – This question gives a glimpse into the things that God is stirring in their heart.

Lead them to a Next Step

Make sure to follow up with them on how they can take another step toward discovering Jesus.

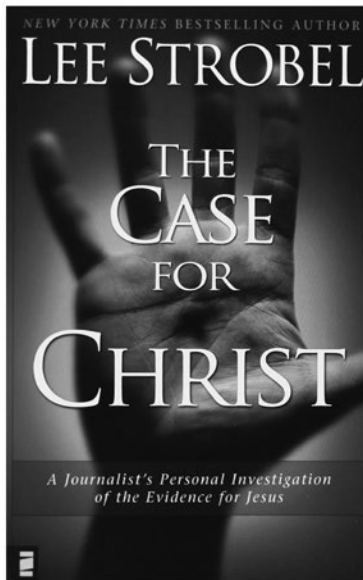
- Invite them to join you again Next Week – Consistent church attendance is a key factor to spiritual growth.
- Invite them to Starting Point – If they are interested in finding out more details about CCV or more information about the Gospel & Baptism, direct them towards the next Starting Point – In fact the best thing you can do is attend with them!
- Invite them to Neighborhood Group – Invite them to spend more time with Christian community to discover the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

Who Are You Going To Share Your Story With?

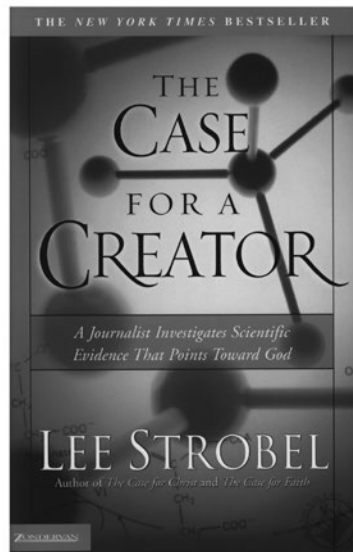
Target List

Name	Places You See Them	Things In Common
1.		
2.		
3.		

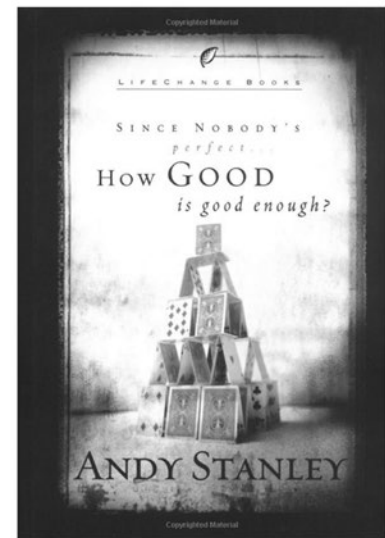
RESOURCES



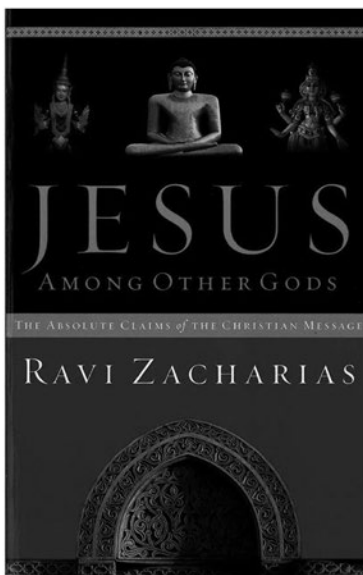
“The Case for Christ”
Lee Strobel



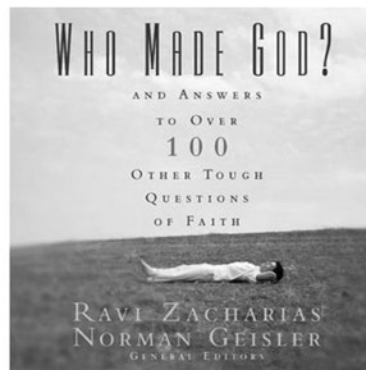
“The Case for a Creator”
Lee Strobel



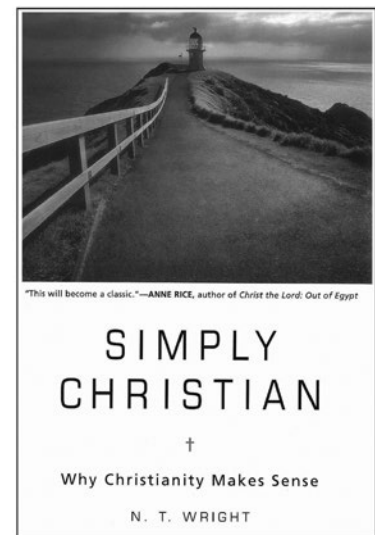
“How Good is Good Enough”
Andy Stanley



“Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message”
Ravi Zacharias



“Who Made God?: And Answers to Over 100 Tough Questions of Faith”
Ravi Zacharias & Norman Geisler



“Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense”
N.T. Wright

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