# Sharing Your Spiritual Story

The purpose of this module is to:

Equip believers to share their spiritual stories.

The objectives for this module are:

- To develop an effective spiritual story;
- To increase the confidence level of believers in sharing their spiritual story.

I. Scriptural Guidance from I Peter 3:15-16
   A. Being prepared to share my spiritual story is connected to Jesus being _____ of my heart (vs. 15).
   B. I am to be _____ to share my spiritual story.
   C. I am to share my spiritual story with _____ (vs. 15).
   D. I am to share my spiritual story with an attitude of for the other person (vs. 15).
   E. I am to share my spiritual story in a way that keeps my conscience _____ (vs. 16).

II. Elements of Effective Spiritual Stories (The Apostle Paul's Model)
   A. Describe your life _____ Christ.
      1. How did your spiritual state _____ your behavior, feelings, and relationships?
   B. Describe how you _____ to Christ.
      1. What made you start thinking about spiritual matters?
      2. Exactly how did you receive Christ? (State in such a way the hearer will know how they can receive Christ.)
   C. Describe the _____ Christ has made in your life.
      1. How did your new spiritual condition affect your behavior, feelings, and relationships?

III. Elements of Effective Spiritual Stories (Timothy's Model)
   Here are some questions to consider by which you may _____ an effective testimony:
   1. Who or what were the influences that _____ you closer to God?
   2. What were the memorable events, moments, or conversations that _____ you to want God in your life?
   3. Describe spiritual decisions you made along the way.
   4. How has God _____ you in your faith journey?
      - What are some answers to prayer?
      - When has God guided you?
      - How has He treated you when you failed?
      - What are some expressions of God's love toward you?

IV. Pitfalls to Avoid

A. Glorifying _____.

*Have you ever heard someone talk about their life before Christ and it sounded as though they missed the pigsty? The last thing you want to do in telling your spiritual story is to cause someone to be tempted to sin.*

B. Using Christian _____ .

There are a lot of terms Christians use which are not commonly understood. Ask the participants for examples. Some answers may be:

1. Sin
2. Salvation
3. Entire sanctification
4. Justification
5. Born again
6. Prayed through
7. Redemption

*There are many words and terms which mean a lot to Christians, but have no meaning to pre-believers. If they do not understand the words we use, we might as well be talking in Latin. It is like trying to pick up an FM radio signal on the AM dial. Our message needs to be on their frequency. We are not advocating changing the message, rather using terminology that will convey the intended meaning.*

## Small Group Exercise

1. Pair up and share your spiritual story within four minutes.
2. Provide feedback to your partner using the following guideline:
   a. Strong Points of the Spiritual Story
   b. Ways to Improve
3. Checklist
   a. Life before Christ was clearly explained.
   b. Sin was not glorified.
   c. How they came to Christ was clearly explained.
   d. How I can become a Christian was clear.
   e. The difference Jesus has made was clearly explained.
   f. Jargon was avoided.
   g. Length (within 4 minutes).

# Action Planning/Reporting

1. Plan occasions when testimonies can be shared in worship and in small groups.

2. List unchurched people you know who have not heard your spiritual story.

3. Tell of times when God answered prayer.

4. Review and recite other stories that express your faith, i.e. a sense of God's presence, personal peace, courage to do what is right.