

Top 10 questions about Faith Stories™

By Dr. Mary Manz Simon

1. What is a Faith Story™?

A Faith Story™ is the first-person telling of an individual's journey, or selected milestones, of their relationship with Jesus.

2. Who wrote the first Faith Stories™?

Faith Stories™ are autobiographical, so we look to David in the Psalms, Jeremiah in his conversations with God, Luke in Acts and of course, St. Paul in his letters to early Christian communities. The first-person use of "I" adds a level of immediacy and degree of intimacy that crosses time and space.

3. What is so special about a Faith Story™?

A Faith Story™ is very real. The authenticity of honest sharing is unmistakable. No one can share your Faith Story™ as effectively as you!

4. Does everyone have a Faith Story™?

Yes, but we don't always think about our journey with Jesus in this way.

5. At what age can a person can share a Faith Story™?

Anyone who has a relationship with Jesus can share a Faith Story™.

6. What different formats can be used to share a Faith Story™?

A Faith Story™ can be told verbally, written as a narrative, poem or song, shared through a drawing, dance or using any other means of communication. For example, a person might tape a single 30 minute video, record a series of 30 second vignettes with a cell phone over a period of years or write once a month in a journal. Any format can be used to show how God is at work in our life.

7. How long is a Faith Story™?

Any length, because it's your story. We never reach "The end," because God continues to write His story through us.

8. Who will hear my Faith Story™?

You decide. Some people ask that their Faith Story™ is shown or read at their funeral. Others share elements of Faith Stories™ during conversations throughout their life. Perhaps you'll reveal yours at a family gathering or milestone event such as an

anniversary, confirmation or wedding. Observing others as they hear/read/learn your Faith Story™ can often open the door to meaningful or significant conversations.

9. Why should I tell my Faith Story™ ?

Your testimony to God's presence in your life might encourage someone in their spiritual walk, lead a person to consider a relationship with Jesus Christ or be an enriching step on your personal journey with Jesus.

*10. How can telling my Faith Story™ help **me**?*

Reflecting can be revealing. In our busy lives, sometimes we aren't aware of how busy God is! Thinking through our relationship with God not only offers the opportunity to thank God for our blessings, but to consider ways to continue to grow, because His story continues.

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