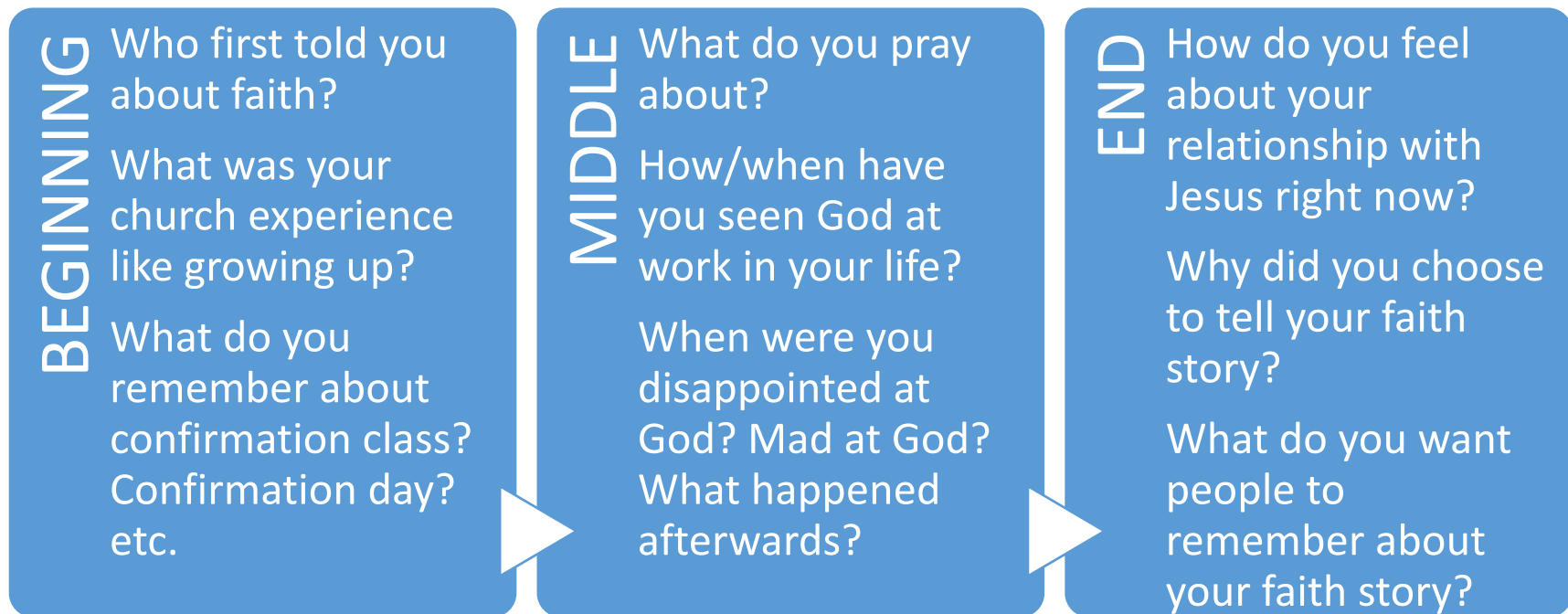


Storytelling Basics

Many of us have been taught storytelling basics, but because few of us became authors or actors so we haven't really practiced storytelling principles (why would we?). When writing a faith story, it is well worth your time to organize your thoughts with a few basic storytelling principles. Doing so can help your story come across more clearly so that it can have a greater impact those who read or watch it. It can also help you avoid the tendency to ramble as you attempt to highlight everything that's happened regarding faith in your lifetime. The number of people and events that are directly connected to our faith is often overwhelming. Pick and choose what you would like to share based on how it fits into a track or story arc. Look for patterns between stories and people. As you find those patterns, the larger story will emerge.

The best stories have a clear beginning, middle, and end. The provided Faith Stories™ questions are somewhat organized chronologically and can be used to help organize your thoughts to have a clear beginning, middle, and end.



Storytelling Basics

In addition to outlining information in a basic beginning, middle, and end format, it's also good to organize your thoughts into a story arc. Powerful stories usually describe the **setting**, develop a few **characters**, lay down the details for meaningful experiences and events (**rising action**), share the outcome of those events (**climax**), and then explain what happened afterwards (**resolution**). They can get a lot more complex than that, but you don't have to be a storytelling master to follow this general format. Again, the provided Faith Stories™ questions can be plugged into the various parts of a story arc as you see fit. And by all means, add your own questions as well! These are just suggestions to get you started.

