

## Your Story Of Restoration

### Instructions

Everyone seeking baptism or commitment to The Church At Mon River will publicly share the story of how they became a follower of Jesus at a Sunday morning gathering. This allows our church to get to know you and to celebrate God's work in your life. We know public speaking can be intimidating for many and we want to help. A friend of yours who is already committed to the church will read your story for you while you stand next to them.

Writing your story can also be intimidating. We have created the following outline to help you with that. Each section has a description followed by a prompt of what to say. You do not have to use the prompts exactly word for word (except for the opening phrase), but all the elements should be included in your story. As you write, imagine that there is someone visiting our Worship Gathering who has never heard about Jesus and your story is the only thing they will hear when they visit.

Please keep your story to fewer than 500 words and have typed so that your friend can easily read it. See examples of sample stories for more help.

### Outline

#### 1. God's Design:

Describe who you are and what drives you? What internal cries have you always been seeking to be fulfilled? These are legitimate, God-given drives in your life.

This is the story of how [your name] is being restored to God's design. (Please include this phrase)

I am [describe yourself]. One of my greatest desires in life has always been to [state what you have always been looking for].

#### 2. Turning From God's Design and The Resulting Brokenness:

Give strong examples from your life that illustrate how you tried to achieve these drives before following Jesus. At the same time, show how there was rising unresolved tension. This is because if God has given you drives, but you are trying to live without God, then these drives largely went unsatisfied. Or perhaps you were using an idol to fulfill these God-given drives.

I tried to achieve fulfillment in these ways: [give examples]. But then [explain the problem of trying to satisfy your desires for fulfillment without God]. For example, [give an example].

#### 3. The Gospel:

Describe how you came to realize that it was Jesus you were looking for. Explain who Jesus is and what he did for you in his death and resurrection. Be sure to include your declaration of Jesus death on the cross and resurrection that allowed you to be restored to God.

But this is what Jesus has done for me. [Explain how Jesus fulfills your internal cries].

#### 4. Repent and Believe:

Describe how you began to follow Jesus. This can be a gradual change or a sudden moment.

That is when I decided [explain how you decided to follow Jesus].

#### 5. Recover and Pursue God's Design:

Describe how Jesus satisfies your God-given drive. Give an example of what your new life looks like and how you are being restored to God's design for your life.

So now [explain what following Jesus looks like in your life now]. For example, [now give an example].

This outline was modified from Sam Chan's strategy of "Telling Our Story As Story" in the book *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* (Zondervan, pg. 53-59).