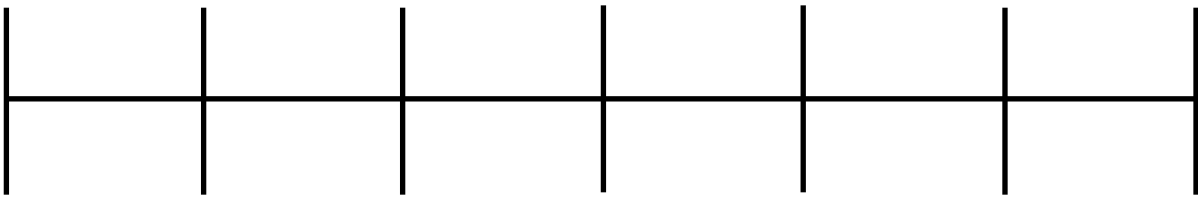


MY SPIRITUAL STORY¹

Many Christians have given their testimonies at some time or another. We want to ask you to share your whole story so we can start at a more transparent and deeper place in our groups, including the positives and the negatives. "My Spiritual Story" is a guide for sharing your spiritual story.

First, Draw a line on a piece of paper and divide that line into sections, creating one section for each decade of your life. We'll call it your "lifeline." It might look like this . . .



Assigning numbers to each decade it might look like this.

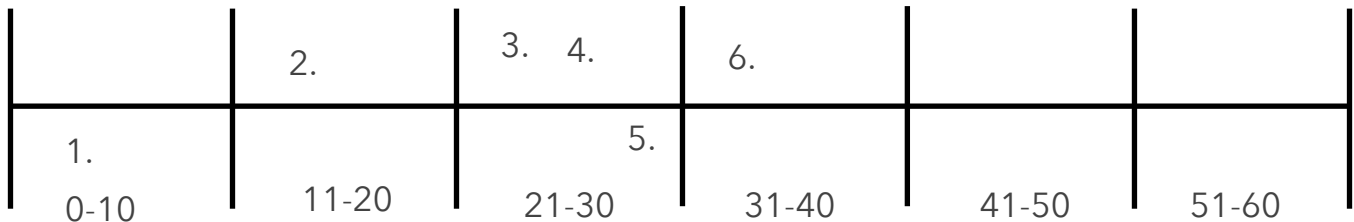


¹ Adapted from renew.org spiritual inventory

Pray and ask God to remind you of critical spiritual events turning points, moments of truth, disasters, failures, victories . . . the really important life-shaping events that happened in each of these decades. (Don't skip the prayer part)

Take a few minutes and complete your 'highs' and 'lows' on your lifeline with a brief note on what happened to make it a significant event.

Put a number on the part of the scale to mark your age when it happened. Put it above the line if it was a positive event . . . put it below the line if it was a negative one. Your graph and notes might start looking like this . . .



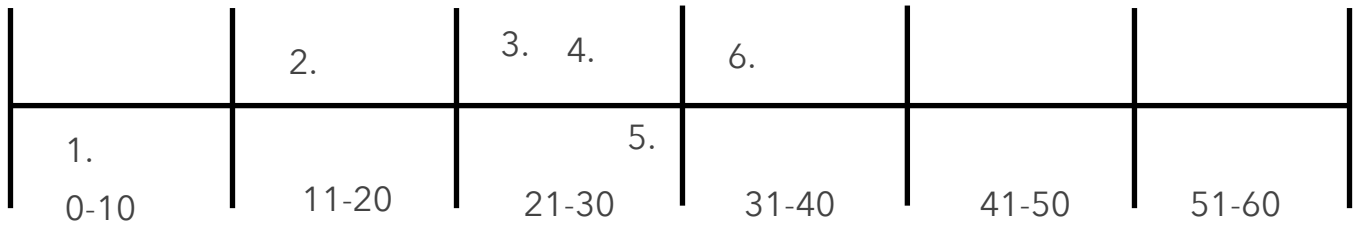
You may have a lot of numbers on the lifeline to start. That is okay, however after you have made your first lifeline with numbers it is time to narrow the focus. Circle the top 6-8 you would consider the most significant events on your spiritual journey. You can also make another lifeline to keep things clean.

Choose no more than 8! Be discerning! Do not simply record the events of your life (What church you went to what city you lived in, but the major highs and lows that impacted your spiritual life. (We have provided an example on the following page

Beside each of your notes, jot down what spiritual impact that had on you and how you understood God at that time.

Be honest! On the positive events include things like, how God was guiding you, blessing you, and protecting you. On the negative events explain what God was teaching you? How did He redeem the situation for His glory?

Here's how your notes might look on the example given above.



EVENT EXAMPLES:

- 1. My dad abandoned our family
- 2. I was baptized into Christ
- 3. Mission Trip to Nicaragua
- 4. Got Married
- 5. Divorced my wife
- 6. Got involved with outreach group at Church.

WHAT SPIRITUAL IMPACT DID THAT EVENT HAD ON YOU?

- 1. I didn't know God then. I felt abandoned. Unloved. Unknown.
- 2. I took a look in the mirror one day, and knew for the first time that I was loved. Forgiven. And I mattered. And even though I knew I mess up constantly, I finally had a Father who loved me just like I was. And I felt home.
- 3. I couldn't believe how God showed up in so many places! I loved the work, giving medical supplies to really help really sick people, and knowing I was doing the same to Jesus!
- 4. I fell in love with my (then) wife. I thought she was God's gift to me, someone to journey with all the way to heaven. It felt so good to have a partner in life that believed in Jesus like I did. I learned about true companionship from her.
- 5. My wife and I grew apart, and one day I woke up to find myself in bed with another woman. I never thought I would do that, but when I tried to tell my wife, she wanted to heal but couldn't. She left me. Eventually God would reveal to me what real forgiveness costs Him. But I ignored His grace for a long time.
- 6. A few years after the divorce, I began to at church embrace God's grace, and found excitement in bringing hope to hopeless people. I started to get involved in the outreach group at my church, and love meeting new people and sharing Jesus with them!

Finish by answering the question “How do you feel about your life and God as you look back on your spiritual story?” Once you have that answered, you’ve finished!

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Developing your spiritual story is about being real, transparent and vulnerable. In sharing your spiritual story, you are telling your group where you were, the role God played in your life, and allowing them to see the journey you’ve been on.

Once you’ve finished, look back over your spiritual story and be ready to share it with your discipleship group at the next meeting.