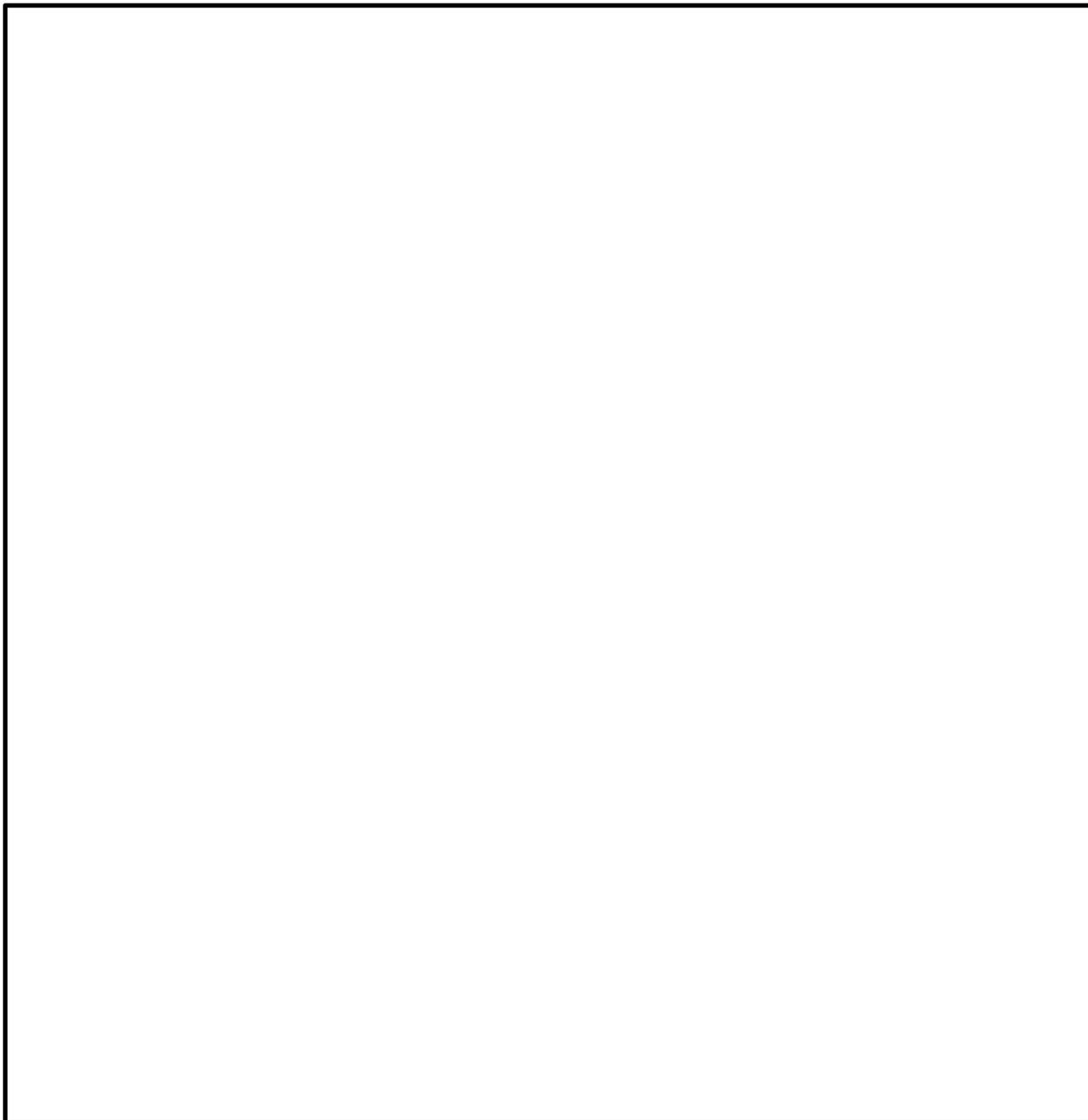


## Tell Your Story

Imagine being with a close friend who is not a Christian in a coffee shop. As you drink your coffee your friend suddenly asks you: "What happened that you became a Christian?"

You have the time of one coffee to tell your story. Write the story of how you came to faith in the box below. Don't forget you are **talking** to a friend and he wants to hear from you yourself.

[Give participants 10 minutes to write their spontaneous testimony. Optional: Each participant can read what they wrote in their small group.]

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for participants to write their spontaneous testimony. The box is currently blank.

## Before meeting Jesus/Meeting Jesus/Life with Jesus

In the Bible, Paul tells the story of how Jesus changed his life. When he told his story for a king (Acts 26), he described it in three parts. He began by describing his life **before** believing in Jesus (verse 4-11), then he explained **how** he began following the Messiah (verse 12-18), and finally he spoke about his Christian life **now** (verse 19-23). This is a good example of how we can tell about becoming a Christian. Paul's testimony is concise and useful. It's possible to say all of this in three minutes. Read the story of Paul - Acts 26: 4-23.

## Before meeting Jesus

### **Finish the following sentences:**

[Each participant should write out their own answers. They should know that it should not be something too personal that they are not willing to share with others in their group. When each person is finished they should ask each other what they wrote. One possibility is for the leader to assign one person to start. That person can then choose another person in the group to answer a question. It continues until all answers have been answered.]

1. When I was a child I wanted...
2. Before when I prayed...
3. My parents' expectations...
4. I could always trust that...
5. For me success was...
6. One of the biggest disappointments in my life was...



# How did I meet Jesus?

## Finish the following sentences:

1. The first time that I heard the good news of Jesus...
2. The surprising thing about Jesus was that...
3. It was hard for me to accept that...
4. My life changed when...
5. How did Christians help you on your journey to Christ? (Who?)
6. Which biblical story or lesson was important to you? Why was this story/lesson important to you?
7. What questions did you have? How were your questions answered?
8. Was there a specific day that you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Where were you? What happened?

[Many people struggle with this question. The date is not important. But it is normal for people to be able to remember an important decision. Perhaps if the still struggle it is because they have not yet accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. You should offer them the opportunity now to make this decision!]

9. How did you feel at that time?
10. Who did you tell at that time that you came to faith in Jesus?

## Your life with Jesus

1. How has your life changed after trusting in Jesus?
2. How has Jesus met your heart needs?

## Continuing with Jesus

Will you allow Jesus to continue to write your story? Each year we have 365 new chances to decide to make a difference. Each day we can choose to follow Jesus. Let's continue the adventure of gratefulness, forgiveness and love.

1. How will you show Jesus that you love him?
2. How will you grow in your knowledge of the Bible? (What plan of study do you have?)
3. How will you serve Jesus and the church?
4. Who do you want to talk with about your experience with Jesus?