

## **MISSION ARLINGTON 2023 TESTIMONY**

**Complete and turn in by Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**READ Acts 26 - Paul's testimony gives us a good model to follow.**

**1) BEFORE you were saved – Acts 26:4-5 and 9-11**

Paul talks about his life before Christ (Blind spiritually)

A very religious person, even willing to kill for what he believed...but believed the wrong things

**Question - What was your life like before you became a Christian?**

**2) HOW you were saved– Acts 26:12-18**

Paul tells how he was saved (converted)

He was made aware of his sin/blindness (God gave sight)

He realized faith in Jesus led to forgiveness

Heard Jesus calling him, setting him apart, calling him to turn from darkness

**Question - How were you saved?**

- How did Jesus open your eyes to see your need for a Savior?

**3) AFTER you were saved– Acts 26:19-23**

Paul describes his life now as a Christian (Aimed to walk in obedience)

**Question - What has changed since?**

### **Example Testimony**

**1) BEFORE you were saved**

Background - Growing up as a little kid...I was a “good kid”

I thought there were the “good kids” who try to do what’s right and stay out of trouble

and the “bad kids” who get in trouble at home and school, they did what they wanted

and didn’t seem to care if they got in trouble

Problem - I felt pressure to do the right thing - I wanted to please people

Sometimes I just did the right thing to avoid getting grounded

It wasn’t because I was “good”

I wasn’t doing the right things because I loved God or loved my parents

I just didn’t want to disappoint people...and I especially didn’t want to get in trouble

I thought that being a pretty good kid made me a Christian...and that I was going to heaven

**2) HOW you were saved**

One day when I was 14, God helped me realize that being a Christian is about loving God & trusting in Jesus

- it’s not about being good or going to church

- the Bible says that my best attempts at being good, aren’t good enough...in fact it was sin.

I had been disobeying God and trying to live life on my own...being my own boss(king)

I realized I needed Jesus because He paid the penalty for my sin on the cross

I realized that Jesus took the punishment that my sins deserved,

even though He lived a perfect life and never sinned.

In that moment my heart was full of love for God. I knew I needed Jesus, and I wanted Jesus.

So I just prayed...I just said,

*“God forgive me for trying live life on my own and for not following you*

*Help me to trust You...to love You. I want you to be the ruler(boss) of my life.*

*Change me on the inside, help me to follow you...Thank You for saving me”*

**3) AFTER you were saved**

Since then, my life hasn’t been perfect...but my love for God is definitely growing.

The Bible says that when God saves us He makes us a new creation

...He gives us a new heart, new desires...He’s changing me on the inside

...Now I’m less concerned with pleasing everybody and trying to impress them

...I’m more concerned about pleasing the Lord, because I love Jesus

Deep down I want to please God...to follow Jesus....to love others because I know that Jesus loves me.

## Personal Testimony Outline

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

We want you to consider the miracle of salvation and to know that your redemption story is worth sharing in a way that will give God glory. Some of you may be uncertain about your salvation or you may know that you have not yet trusted in Christ. Please feel free to be honest about that and just write that down. Don't feel the need to pretend or say what you think you're "supposed to say." Let this be a time of personal reflection and honesty. None of this will be shared with other students unless you chose to share it. Please talk to Kicker or another leader if you have questions...we would love to help)

1. **Before - My life before I knew Jesus** (attitudes and actions you had that others can relate to; include how you became aware of your need for Jesus):

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2. **How** - How did you hear about Jesus? How you began your relationship with Jesus.

Include the gospel clearly and briefly (mention: the fact of sin, the penalty of sin, Jesus' payment for that sin, the requirement to repent and trust Jesus, and what you did to invite Jesus into your life.)

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3. **After - My life since receiving Christ** (what attitudes and actions have changed; try to relate it back to the areas you struggled with before you were saved):

[illegible]