

### 3. The Power of Your Story

**Main message:** Our personal story is a powerful tool in helping us share the Gospel with others.

-----

**Recap from session 2:** Break into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each other: How are you finding telling others that you are a Christian? Did it lead on to any good conversations?

-----

**Video:** Watch the video of how Guy introduces the Gospel through telling his story in under 60 seconds. It's available on the Great Commission resources page on our website:

<https://www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/resources/great-commission/>

Or on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8DaMbYKbQw>

-----

**Opening question:** What do you think helps make it interesting when someone tells their story of how they turned to Jesus?

-----

Paul told his story to King Agrippa and the Governor Festus. As we read about this encounter, look out for how Paul includes the Gospel.

**Scripture:** Read **Acts 26:1-29** together.

**Question:** Which aspects of the Gospel does Paul weave into his story?

*V.18. The need to receive God's forgiveness for our sins.*

*V.20. The need to turn from sin and turn to God.*

*V.23. The suffering and resurrection of Jesus.*

**Question:** Is there anything else that stands out to you about the way that Paul tells his story?

- *He has permission to tell his story (verse 1). We can ask people if we can briefly tell them our story.*
  - *His story is brief! This account in Acts 26 takes about three minutes to read.*
  - *Paul's story has three parts: how He was before He turned to Jesus (verse 2-11); how he turned to Jesus (verse 12-18); and what happened after he turned to Jesus (verse 19-23).*
  - *After telling his story, Paul asks what his hearers think (verse 27).*
- 

**Practise in small group:** Now we are going to spend some time helping each other tell the Gospel through our story. This will look different for everyone! For example:

- Some came to Christ very early in their lives. If that is you, try and think of a time when you turned to Jesus and experienced His love or His power at work in your life.
- You might not yet know Jesus. Feel free to tell some of your story 'so far', or perhaps how you ended up coming to this small group!
- Remember, we're in this together – let's encourage each other as we practise!

*As the leader, first tell your story to the whole group in **60 seconds**. You may find this outline helpful:*

**A. Before turning to Jesus** - *what was the situation before you turned to Jesus?*

*What if anything did you think of Jesus before? Why did you see the need to change?*

**B. Turning to Jesus** - *How did you turn to Jesus?*

*What actually happened? Why did you decide to trust Jesus? Was there some key truth or Scripture or sign God used?*

**C. After turning to Jesus** - *How did things change after you turned to Jesus?*

*What evidence is there that God gave you a new life/helped you in your life with Jesus? What difference has Jesus made in your life?*

Now practise in groups of 2 or 3, telling your story in **60 seconds** and try to include at least one of the core events of the Gospel (the death and resurrection of Jesus). Feel free to practise it a few times!

-----

**Prayer in small group:** Read **Philemon 6**. Spend some time praying for one another that you would gain a deeper understanding of what God has done for you through speaking to others about Jesus.

-----

**Great Commission challenge:** This week, ask someone if you could briefly tell them the story of how you turned to Jesus.