

Preparation for those giving their testimonies

Just before the testimonies are due to begin, draw the group aside and run through the following points with them. We want the speakers to talk spontaneously and not spend several hours or a whole day 'planning' what they're going to say.

Please remember that some of the most reluctant candidates give the most wonderful testimonies, so be encouraging to everyone and put them at their ease.

Everyone would love to hear your stories and so I am going to interview you.

Imagine one of your non-Christian friends is in the audience, and they're sitting at the back.

You have two minutes to convince them to do Alpha, but not by saying 'You must do Alpha!' which isn't very convincing!

To help you, think of your testimony in three parts – we like the illustration of the washing powder commercial.

1. Here's a filthy rugby shirt.
2. We put it in the wash with new improved Wonder-whatever...
3. Now look at the brilliant white shirt.

I'll ask three questions that match the three stages.

1. 6 months/1 year ago, were you a churchgoer?
2. What happened?
3. What's the difference Jesus has made?

Things to note:

- If you've had a bad experience in another denomination, please don't name the denomination as that can appear very negative and offend people. We suggest that you simply say, 'I had a religious upbringing.'
- When describing the difference Jesus has made, try and give concrete examples (When a driver cut me off yesterday, I didn't lose my temper!) and avoid sweeping generalisations.

Please don't worry about having nothing to say – I can easily prompt you with another question if you need it. I'm responsible for the interview – you simply need to answer the questions.

End with a short prayer.