

A culture of testimony

1. A reason to believe	
Teaching:	The word “testimony” is closely related to the word “witness” – a testimony is the statement given by a witness, about what they have seen or heard or experienced. Jesus says that this is our task (Ac 1:8). Witnessing for Jesus is not about engaging in theological debates, but telling people what we have seen, heard or experienced. (1 John 1:1). A testimony is not about what we believe, but what we have seen. A good testimony, however, can result in other people believing. (John 4:39, 2 Thess 1:10)
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a powerful testimony (Rev 12:11) • My testimony can change lives (Ac 4:33)
Testimony:	Can anyone here remember being propelled to faith by a story you heard from someone else?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will remember and pass on testimonies I hear that impact me • I will not keep silent about what God has done in my life • I will see the impossible happen in my life as I step out in risk
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAY: Does anyone here struggle think of a testimony in their life? Pray for them that this week God will do something truly amazing. • SHARE: What have you seen God do in your life? • BELIEVE: Add the 2 beliefs above to your daily declarations.
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WELL: My faith has been built up by the testimonies I have heard • BADLY: I don’t remember hearing any testimonies

2. Do it again!

Teaching:	Every testimony is a record of what God has done. But God can do it again! Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, so every miracle we read about in scripture, and every miracle we hear about from someone else is an opportunity to believe for the same again. Moreover our personal testimonies become part of our spiritual inheritance that we are able to release again and again as the need arises.
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8)• Every work that Jesus did, we can perform too (John 14:12)
Testimony:	Is there a particular area in your life where God has used you repeatedly?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will not be envious of other people's testimonies, but believe to see the same released in my life• When I encounter needs I will search for testimonies of God meeting similar needs• I will offer my testimony as a gift of faith to others
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRAY: Is anyone here facing a particular challenge at the moment?• SHARE: Have you heard a testimony that could help the faith of the people you have just prayed for?• BELIEVE: Add the 2 beliefs above to your daily declarations.
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WELL: I heard a healing testimony and passed it onto someone who was suffering from the same condition• BADLY: I have heard people being quite cynical about a testimony

3. A powerful testimony

Teaching:	<p>The testimony of a witness is often given in hostile circumstances, but with power it will overcome this hostility (Ac 6:10). It is one thing to encourage one another in our faith, another to testify before skeptics. A testimony is not powerful because of hype or passion, but because it explains clearly and compellingly with relevant detail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) how severe the problem was in the first place. This may include vulnerable details of your financial state, your medical state (diagnosis, prognosis), your emotional state (anxiety, fear, depression) (2) how you know the intervention was miraculous. Typically this will detail the failure of human efforts to resolve the problem (3) what happened (received prayer, visitation, experienced sensations in body etc.) (4) how great the outcome was (measured objectively). Might include medical tests after the miracle, freedom from symptoms, financial abundance etc. <p>A happy coincidence to solve a minor irritation does not make for a powerful testimony. Meeting Jesus risen from the dead does!</p>
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing is too hard for God (Jer 32:17) • The Holy Spirit will give me words that none of my adversaries will be able to contradict (Lk 21:15)
Testimony:	Has anyone here been surprised at the impact their story has had?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will seek opportunity to testify before influential people • I will allow my powerful story to speak for itself • I will attribute the miracle to the work of the risen Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAY: For the opportunity to testify before someone of influence. What story could you imagine yourself sharing? • SHARE: A powerful testimony of your own or of someone else. Ask the group how you could tell the story even more powerfully. • BELIEVE: Add the 2 beliefs above to your daily declarations.
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WELL: I have heard of people testifying in their workplace • BADLY: I met someone with an amazing story, but they seem very shy about it

4. Overcoming by the word of testimony

Teaching:	<p>Spiritual warfare takes place in the battlefield of the mind, and the words of our testimonies are powerful weapons (Rev 12:11) The enemy will try to silence our testimony (Rev 20:4). He has some subtle lies to trip us up. For example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The act of testifying will “tempt fate” and put a jinx on my healing and cause me to get sick again. 2. When I testify I am making myself look important – I should rather be humble and stay silent. 3. It is hypocritical to even think of testifying until everything else in my life has been sorted out. 4. Maybe nothing happened – I imagined it all. <p>Let’s laugh at all of those lies!</p>
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God laughs at the schemes of the enemy (Ps 2:4) • I know whom I have believed in, and am persuaded that he is able to and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. (2 Tim 1:12) • I am acknowledged in heaven as I acknowledge Jesus before men (Matt 10:32)
Testimony:	Is there something God has done in your life that you have been reluctant to share?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will declare his goodness • I am ready to look foolish for him • I will not understate what he has done for me
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAY: For a releasing of testimony that has been disqualified • SHARE: What lies has the enemy used to silence you? Let’s laugh together at those! • BELIEVE: Add the 3 beliefs above to your daily declarations.
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WELL: I have heard a courageous testimony from someone still in the midst of their trials • BADLY: I have heard an unreal testimony trying to honour God for something that hadn’t happened yet