

Q & A on My Church Story

- Q: Why is it valuable in evangelism to tell about your church?
Shouldn't we be talking about Christ?
- A: At church, Christ meets people in Word and Sacrament. Also, as you talk about your spiritual life in the context of the church, you can build a bridge toward telling the Good News about Jesus right then and there.
- Q: Where might I begin in telling my church story?
- A: Start with your church's location. Help your conversation partner develop a mental image of where the building is, perhaps even what it looks like. Months or even years conversing with you, people may recall little of anything else you said. Yet if they remember where your church is, they can go there for spiritual help.
- Q: What might I say next?
- A: Talk about the benefits of worship. Explain how important it is to you to be able, on a regular basis, to express your gratitude to God for all His blessings. Such statements are not debatable. People cannot argue with how important it is to you to give thanks to God.
- Q: Is this an advisable way to talk about worship?
- A: Among Christians it is better to emphasize the objective instead of the subjective. With Christians, we begin with what God has done for us, not our thankful response. In talking with non-Christians about spiritual matters, though, you might start with what is more readily understood.
- Q: What can I say next?
- A: Add that you love and thank God because He first loved you. At church, He gives you strength to meet the challenges of daily living. Again, this is not yet the Good News about Jesus. If you have children, you might also point out that church is good for them.
- Q: So how to move the conversation to Jesus and the Gospel?
- A: You can say something like this: "Above and beyond all of this, the most important thing my church has done for me is that it has gotten me ready to die. 'The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'" (Rom. 6:23). Now you are set to speak of both God's Law condemning sin and sinners and also the great Gospel good news of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

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