

God spoke to you through this story. As you invite your family and friends to also trust Jesus, you'll continue to hear God speak to you.

*[You can start sharing this story today]: I am learning to tell a story. It takes five minutes. Would you like to hear it? [Wait for their "Yes." With this intro you can **read** the story and just **tell** part 5. For better results, learn to tell the **whole** Lifestory, reduce the opening sentence above to "I have a story," and aim to keep within the time frames listed below]*

# The Lifestory

## Part 1: Introduction (80 seconds or less)

It is 2019. Most people know that, but not many people know why.

The reason is simple. 2000 years ago time stopped and started over again, and now it is 2019.

The important thing is, "Why did time stop?"

According to the ancient Scriptures, God saw that the hearts of everyone on earth were broken, and they could not come up to Him. So He decided to fix this problem.

God came down to earth and took on human form. He was born into the world like all of us, but He did things only God could do.

He walked on water. He healed the sick. He even raised the dead. But the most important thing He did was to fix our problem of sin and brokenness.

He lived a perfect, straight life, then gathered all the mistakes of all people for all time alongside His perfect life. Then with His great love He exchanged his perfect life for our broken lives, took all our sin with Him down to the grave and paid for it with His own blood.

After that, He overcame death and went up into heaven. And He left the door open so everyone who follows Him can come inside. The only problem is not very many are going through this door, and that is why I tell this story.

## Part 2: Creation (Genesis 1–3, 35 seconds or less)

When God first made the world, there were no people, so He made two—Adam and Eve. They were very happy. And they were so close to God, like these two clasped hands.

There was just one rule; not to eat of a certain tree. But they ate from the tree and broke the rule. And they didn't just break the rule; they broke the relationship; so it's not close any more, but very far apart. And it has been that way ever since.

### **Part 3: Moses (Numbers 21:4–9, 85 seconds or less)**

About 2,500 years after Adam and Eve, according to the ancient Scriptures in the book of Numbers, Chapter 21, this is what happened.

God had called a man named Moses to lead about a million people from Egypt to the promised land.

On the way the people did evil in the sight of the Lord, so God struck them with fiery serpents that bit the people, and many of them died. Some ran to Moses and said, "Please, forgive us, and pray for us."

Moses prayed, and God heard his prayer. "Moses, make a bronze serpent, put it on a pole, and hold it up in front of the people. Tell them if they have been bitten by a serpent and they look up to the serpent on the pole, they will live. If they don't, they will surely die."

And it happened just this way.

And even today, in this city and every city in the world, you may see this symbol of a serpent on a pole on a hospital, ambulance, or pharmacy.

Now *[if the group is small enough for you to recall their names, ask their names here]* I imagine *[insert their name(s)]*, if you were with me in front of Moses, and we had been bitten by those serpents, we would have listened to his instructions and looked up to that serpent on the pole rather than die, wouldn't we?

*[Wait for their "Yes."]*

Good, because this has something to do with the end of the story.

### **Part 4: Nicodemus (John 3:1–15, 75 seconds or less)**

About 1,500 years after Moses, according to the ancient scriptures in the book of John, Chapter 3, in the New Testament, this is what happened.

It was a dark night and there was a man in the street. His name was Nicodemus, and he was a great teacher of the law.

Nicodemus was looking for Jesus. When he found Him, Nicodemus said, "Aha! I know you are from Heaven because you do things only God can do."

Jesus replied, "O Nicodemus, you can never see the kingdom of heaven unless you are born again!"

“What? How can a man be born again? Must he go back to his Ma and come from her a second time when he is old?”

Jesus said, “Truly you are a great teacher, but I have something for you: That which is flesh is flesh, but that which is Spirit is like the wind; you don’t know where it’s coming from, and you certainly don’t know where it is going. Everyone born of the Spirit is just like that.

“And just as Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, so must I be lifted up that I may draw all people to myself.”

## **Part 5: Invitation (40 seconds or less)**

Now my friend [*their name*], I know that Jesus loves you. He doesn’t want you to ever perish. He wants you to have eternal life.

So my question for you is very simple. Remember how the people in the wilderness looked up to that serpent and were saved?

In the very same way, Jesus is inviting you to look up to Him today and trust Him to save you also.

My question is, “Yes, or no?”

*[Wait until they answer.]*

### **If they answer YES: Prayer**

Great! Now I know God has touched your life, and you won’t be afraid to say a short prayer with me.

Just replace my name with yours.

“God, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.”

“I invite Jesus into my life.”

“I will follow Jesus.” AMEN

### **If they answer NO: Try to learn why and help them:**

Is any part of the story not clear to you? *[Wait for their answer]*

*[Help them relate to the feelings/condition of those in the wilderness. This will answer many of their questions and objections. Aim to help them past any obstacles to the best decision they can ever make.]*

How did you *feel* when you heard this story? Did you feel *happy*? *[Wait for their answer]*

*[If they say “happy] Then it appears God is helping you to feel positive about Jesus. Could your answer be a yes? [If yes, go to Part 7]*

Maybe there is some other issue. Could you share that with me? *[Wait for their answer]*

*[Even if their answer is still “no,” continue.]*

I have one more question.

What part of the story did you like best? *[Wait for their answer]*

God spoke to you through this story. I imagine He has brought others to your mind that you would like to also hear this story. Is that true?

*[If “Yes” arrange to help them learn this Lifestory.]*

I would love to help you continue hearing from God. Would you like to stay in touch? *[If “Yes,” get their contact information.]*

## **Following Jesus Together**

God fixed our problem without our help. He wants a relationship with us, not a performance. In the book of John, chapter 10, Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me.”

God has given the Bible to guide us in recognizing His voice. Hearing from and walking with God can look very different from going to a weekly service, listening to the insights of others and trying to be good.

As your family and friends join you in saying “Yes” to following Jesus, learn to hear God and follow Jesus together by reading and discussing stories about Jesus, perhaps starting with the book of John. Ask Him what He has for you to do together. As you do, you’ll become “church.”

## **Staying close to Jesus**

Ask Jesus daily to:

- reveal anything you need to confess or make right
- fulfill Jesus three promises:
  - to make you a “fisher of men,”
  - to send His Spirit to empower you as His witness, and
  - to be with you
- guide you to those He wants you share the Lifestory with
- guide those He wants to hear it to say “Yes” to hearing the story
- give you His love for that person and all their family and friends
- open the time and place for you to offer the story

**Listen carefully to Jesus. He will make your life a wonderful adventure!**