



Storytelling Tricks & Tips

WORKLIGHT™

Connecting through stories

Great stories have the power to open hearts and change worldviews. WorkLight is designed to tell the stories of Christ in the workplace. We share these stories to encourage and equip Christians to shine bright at work and know that God is active and alive at work.

It is truly amazing to see how a good storyteller connects with their audience when speaking authentically about a meaningful personal experience. Even on video, eye contact and emotion comes through.

Your story

When giving your story, please know it “by heart” but not by rote memorization. Make your story concrete for the audience by describing sights, sounds, and feelings, particularly paying attention to situations that might be very familiar to you in your workplace, but not to someone outside of your field. If possible, give names/pseudonyms and brief descriptions of the people in your story.

Have some stakes

Stakes are essential in live storytelling. In Christian storytelling, you might consider: what did the Kingdom of God stand to gain or lose in this situation? Why is what happened in the story important to you—and why should other Christians care? If you can’t answer this, then think of a different story. A story without stakes is an essay and is best experienced on the page, not the stage. And remember, stakes are different from sermons. They inherently contain lessons—no teaching or preaching needed.

Start in the action

Have a great first line that sets up the stakes and grabs attention.

No: “So as a plumber I get to visit lots of people’s homes and check out a lot of different variations of porcelain. It’s not glamorous, but I’ve learned over the years that I like tile flooring quite a bit more than linoleum. And actually, that brings me to another point, which is that you see all kinds of crazy house modifications when you have a job like mine.”

Yes: “The first time I ever saw a toilet overflow, at age six, I was instantly sick to my stomach. I was so disgusted that I washed my hands and my nose until they were red. So when I had the chance to apprentice under my uncle to become a plumber—and make twice as much money as my Dad did as



a migrant worker—I had to think about it long and hard. I HATED toilets, but my family really needed any extra money I could bring in.”

Practice your opening line so your story starts off strong and know your story well. Make an intuitive outline and play with descriptive images. Imagine you are sitting around a fire with friends, not standing in court reading a statement. Try to have fun and enjoy!

...and what not to do

Steer clear of wandering endings. They can kill a story! Instead, bring the audience along with you as you contemplate what transpires in your story, but remember, you are driving the story, and must know the final destination. Your last line should be clear in your head before you start.

If your story spans a length of months or years, you may need to narrow your scope. Try to identify 1-2 “anchor events” whose details will help you tell one, clear story with a beginning, middle, and end. If the story still takes more

and what could be left out.

Parting recommendations

We encouraged you to practice ahead of time. Consider recording yourself and being your own critic, but go easy on yourself and have fun!

God alone has heard all of the stories we've told. We want to give these stories a voice. May they inspire and equip us to be the light of Christ.

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than 7-10 minutes, you may need to narrow it further. You may consider asking yourself, could someone in the audience easily re-tell this story to a friend? If not, keep workshopping your story. Share it with a friend or story coach and ask which parts feel important

If you would like feedback from a WorkLight staff member, please reach out to info@worklight.org.

**For more storytelling inspiration, please view our WorkLight Story videos and consider joining us for our next event.

