



Share Your Stories – March 03

When our church transitioned from an Adult Sunday School structure a year and a half ago, many people did not know one another well. One of our ABFs decided to invest five minutes each week for people to share their testimonies (one per week). We found this accomplishes several things.

First, people get to know one another better, adding to the community “feel” in the group. Second, they learn to articulate details of their spiritual journey and gain confidence in sharing their faith (in a friendly group). And testimonies keep the gospel in focus for those who attend but may not yet trust Christ. This is an important opportunity for growth.

Each quarter each of our four ABFs undergoes an evaluation to help assess the health of our groups. People give us feedback on teaching, fellowship and anything else they have in mind. One question that appears on our evaluations has to do with outreach: How equipped are you in sharing your faith with a friend? We consistently find people simply feel unprepared to do this. This has been my experience in different churches too.

Two words of caution: 1) Don't volunteer people. Public speaking intimidates many people so let outgoing members go first. You also don't want to push someone up front who does not have a testimony. 2) Time expands. Encourage people to limit their stories to a few minutes.

Something as simple as sharing our stories has enabled us to get to know one another better. It also equips us for sharing our faith in other contexts. Give it a try.

Submitted by Dan Olson, Associate Pastor at New Hyde Park Baptist Church in New Hyde Park, New York.

Dan can be reached (516) 352-967 or danolson@optonline.net