

## Part 2: “Ask... ME about JESUS”

### How to effectively share our testimonies...

#### Personal Testimony Outline: “The 3 C’s in 3 Minutes”

Why this works:

- Crisis: feels relatable, not dramatic or forced
- Conversion: is honest, not overly polished
- Catalyst: shows real impact, not clichés

Coaching Tip:

- Share the real details of your real story
- Avoid exaggeration. Honest and authentic is what people are looking for.
- Keep it conversational (not “presentation mode”)

Example:

“I’d say for most of my life, things looked fine on the outside—but internally, there was this constant pressure to prove myself. I was chasing approval, and just trying to feel like I was enough. And honestly, the more I achieved, the more I realized it wasn’t fixing what was going on inside. There was this moment where I hit a wall—I remember thinking, ‘Why do I still feel empty if everything is supposedly going right?’ That’s what really started my search.

For me, faith wasn’t something I was naturally leaning toward. But through a combination of conversations, and questions I had I couldn’t shake it, and then seeing something different in people who followed Jesus, I started exploring it more seriously. I didn’t have all the answers, but I got to a point where I realized I didn’t need to have everything figured out to take a step. It wasn’t just intellectual—it became personal. I chose to trust Jesus, not because everything suddenly made perfect sense, but because I was convinced enough to take a step of faith towards Him.

And honestly, that decision has changed my life in ways I didn’t expect. It didn’t make everything easy, but it gave me something deeper and more significant in life — peace where there used to be anxiety, purpose beyond any achievement, and a sense that I’m known and loved without having to earn it. I still have questions, I still am growing and learning, but I’m not the same person I was. And that’s why this matters to me—it’s not just something I believe, it’s something I’ve experienced.”

# Now it's your turn!

## Role Play: Your 3-Minute 3 C Story

Goal: Practice “elevator pitch” testimony

Structure to Teach:

- Before Jesus (relatable tension)
- Encounter (what changed)
- After (specific difference)

Speaker Challenge:

- 2–3 minutes max
- Be descriptive, not preachy
- No churchy jargon

Seeker Prompt:

- Listen and respond naturally:
- “That’s interesting... but I’ve never felt that.”
- “I grew up differently”

Observer Looks For:

- Was it relatable?
- Was it too long or confusing?
- Did it sound like a real story or a sermon?

## This Weeks Challenge:

- Write out your story with these 3 points of emphasis, recite, repeat it, get it to 3 minutes or less.

## Role Play Training

These three exercises are designed to reshape how people think about spiritual conversations. Instead of seeing them as moments to win or something to prove, people are learning how to see themselves as “love” and begin to build trust, invite reflection, and share meaningfully in non-combative ways.

By the end of these sessions, we should walk away with three core abilities:

- The ability to start conversations with affirmation and curiosity
- The ability to open new pathways of thought without pressure
- The ability to share their own faith in a natural and compelling way

More importantly, we will begin to internalize a different posture: one that prioritizes relationship over argument, and presence over performance & focusing on the actual PERSON in front of us.

Below are 3 scenarios written in paragraph form that will preface the role-playing opportunity for each portion.

REMINDER:

The goal is NOT to “win” or “land the plane.”

The goal is to practice creating pathways:

- Curiosity over control
- Connection over correction
- Invitation over argument

# Scenario 1

## Learning to Start with Affirmation & Curiosity

In the first exercise, participants will step into a conversation that immediately feels oppositional: someone expresses a strong objection to faith. This could be about suffering, hypocrisy, or science—topics that often trigger a defensive response. The instinct for many people is to correct, explain, or push back. This exercise intentionally disrupts that instinct & helps develop the skill of engagement with curiosity.

Each group of three will divide into roles: one person will act as the speaker (the Christian engaging in conversation), one as the skeptic (raising the objection), and one as the observer (watching and giving feedback). The skeptic will choose a prompt and present it naturally, as if they genuinely hold that belief. The speaker's responsibility is not to solve the objection or respond with a counterargument, but to slow the conversation down and move toward understanding.

The speaker begins by asking open-ended questions such as, "Can you tell me more about that?" or "What led you to that perspective?" As the skeptic responds, the speaker listens carefully for underlying values—things like a desire for justice, truth, consistency, or compassion. The key moment in this exercise is when the speaker identifies something they can sincerely affirm. Instead of saying, "That's wrong," they might say, "I actually really resonate with your concern about injustice," or "I agree that hypocrisy is a serious issue."

The observer watches closely for tone, posture, and intent. Are the speaker's questions genuine, or do they feel like a setup? Did the speaker actually affirm something meaningful, or did they quickly pivot back to their own viewpoint?

The expected outcome of this exercise is a shift in mindset. Participants begin to experience how disarming it is to lead with affirmation instead of opposition. They learn that meaningful conversations don't open through correction—they open through connection. By the end of this round, participants should see that starting with common ground lowers defenses and creates space for a real relationship, rather than a debate.

# Scenario 1

## Focus skill: Starting with affirmation instead of disagreement

Setup – The “skeptic” shares a strong objection to faith. The “speaker” must resist correcting or debating and instead:

- Ask questions
- Affirm something genuine
- Build relational trust

### Role Prompts

Skeptic options (choose one):

- “I don’t believe in God because of all the suffering in the world.”
- “Christians are hypocrites, so I don’t take faith seriously.”
- “Science explains everything—we don’t need God.”

Speaker goals:

- Ask: “Can you tell me more about that?”
- Ask: “What do you believe instead?”
- Identify and affirm something real (justice, truth, compassion, logic, etc.)
- Do NOT argue or correct

Observer checklist:

- Did the speaker avoid debating?
- Did they ask at least 2 curiosity-based questions?
- Did they affirm something meaningful?

Debrief Questions

- What affirmation felt natural vs forced?
- Did the skeptic feel heard or “handled”?
- Where did the conversation open up?

## Scenario 2

### Creating Space for New Possibilities

The second exercise builds on the first but introduces a new layer: helping someone consider ideas they may have never entertained, without forcing or arguing them into it.

Again, participants remain in groups of three and rotate roles. The skeptic presents a belief that feels settled and closed—statements like “There’s no evidence for God,” or “Truth is relative.” These positions can often feel like dead ends in conversation. The goal of the speaker, however, is not to push through that wall, but to gently open a window.

Instead of responding with evidence or apologetics, the speaker asks thoughtful, hypothetical questions that invite imagination and reflection. For example, “If there were a God, what do you think He might be like?” or “What kind of evidence would even matter to you?” These questions are not traps—they are invitations. They create what the training describes as “pathways,” allowing the skeptic to explore ideas without feeling cornered.

The speaker must be careful here. If the questions feel loaded or strategic, the conversation will shut down. But if they are asked with genuine curiosity, they can shift the tone from debate to exploration. The skeptic, even while staying in character, often begins to engage differently—not defending a position, but thinking out loud.

The observer pays attention to whether the speaker maintains this posture of curiosity. Are they allowing silence? Are they comfortable not having immediate answers? Are they resisting the urge to “close the deal”?

The expected outcome of this exercise is that participants learn how to move a conversation forward without pressure. They discover that people are often more open to considering new ideas than they are to being told they are wrong. By the end, participants should feel more comfortable asking questions that expand thinking rather than questions that demand agreement.

## Scenario 2

### Helping someone consider new ideas (without arguing)

Setup - The skeptic holds a firm disbelief. The speaker's goal is NOT to convince—but to:

- Introduce thoughtful “what if” by leading with sincere inquiry.
- Create mental space for possibility.

#### Role Prompts

Skeptic options:

- “I don’t think there’s any evidence for God.”
- “All religions are basically the same.”
- “Truth is relative—no one can really know anything for sure.”

Speaker goals:

- Ask one or two of these types of questions:
- “If there was a God, what do you think He’d be like?”
- “What kind of evidence would matter to you?”
- “If God showed up today, what do you think would happen?”
- Stay curious, not persuasive.
- Avoid giving answers too quickly.

Observer checklist:

- Did the speaker ask thoughtful “consideration” questions?
- Did they avoid pushing toward a conclusion?
- Did the conversation feel exploratory?

Debrief Questions

- Which questions created the most engagement?
- Did anything shift in the skeptic’s openness?
- What made a question feel safe vs threatening?

## Scenario 3

### Sharing Personal Faith Without Arguing

The final exercise shifts the focus inward. Instead of asking questions or drawing out the other person, the speaker now practices sharing their own perspective—but in a way that is invitational rather than argumentative.

In this scenario, the skeptic raises a challenge such as “The resurrection sounds made up” or “Faith just feels like wishful thinking.” These are moments where many people feel pressure to defend Christianity with polished, airtight arguments. This exercise intentionally moves in a different direction.

The speaker responds by sharing ideas and experiences that have personally shaped their faith. Rather than saying, “Here’s why that’s not true,” they might say, “One of the things that’s been really meaningful for me is...” or “Something I’ve wrestled with is...” The emphasis is on personal journey, not universal proof.

For example, the speaker might explain how they’ve struggled with the idea of creation happening by chance, or how the willingness of early followers of Jesus to die for their beliefs impacted them. The key is that these are shared as reflections, not conclusions that the skeptic must accept.

The observer watches for authenticity. Does the speaker sound rehearsed, or real? Are they speaking from experience, or trying to construct an argument? Is there humility in how they communicate?

The expected outcome of this exercise is that participants gain confidence in sharing their faith without feeling the need to defend it perfectly. They begin to understand that personal stories and formative ideas can be just as powerful—often more powerful—than structured arguments. This approach lowers resistance and makes the conversation feel normal rather than confrontational.

## Scenario 3

### Focus skill: Sharing personal experiences / testimony instead of “winning” the debate

Setup – The skeptic raises a challenge. The speaker responds by:

- Sharing ideas that influenced their faith
- Speaking personally (“for me...”)
- Avoiding debate language

#### Role Prompts

Skeptic options:

- “The Bible is just written by humans.”
- “The resurrection sounds made up.”
- “Faith just seems like wishful thinking.”

Speaker goals:

- Respond with:
- “One thing that’s been meaningful to me is...”
- “Something I’ve wrestled with is...”
- Be descriptive not prescriptive.
- Share 1–2 ideas (examples):
- The complexity of creation
- The disciples’ willingness to die for their belief
- Personal life experience
- Do NOT try to “prove” anything. Simply & sincerely present.

Observer checklist:

- Did the speaker avoid arguing? (verbal or non-verbal ways)
- Did they use personal language instead of universal claims? (descriptive vs prescriptive)
- Did it feel authentic rather than scripted? (authentic, sincere, compassionate)

Debrief Questions

- What made the sharing feel genuine?
- Did the skeptic feel invited or pressured?
- What ideas sparked curiosity?