

Faith Story Design Flow

Remember:

- 70-85% of the time is design and outlining. Writing the main content is last.
- Everything is from your point of view: what does it mean to you?

1. Faith events from life

On a piece of paper or in a journal write a list of at least 5 faith related times you changed how you lived your life.

- No more than 3 sentences per event
- You will go through stages of recalling events: waiting, recalling and writing, slowing down. When you get to slowing down, you can stop.

2. Choose 1 to 5 events that connect most deeply

Go through the list in three stages.

Quickly scan

Quickly read each event and note any that cause a stir in you, that you react to, or that you pause on. As you do this, mark each of those events with a simple pencil tick or similarly quick.

Reflect on each event you marked and look for ones that:

- Made a big difference in how you lived your life.
- Are meaningful to you
- Bring back the strongest feelings and memories

Choose 1 to 5 that connected most deeply

3. Choose the story event

The best way to do this is to gather some index cards as they will help you fill out the chosen story later.

For each of the events chosen in step 2, write at most 2-3 sentences for each of the following questions. Write each answer on an index card and include the event and the question.

- What specific behavior or action changed?
- What were you doing before you changed?
- What were you doing differently after you changed (focus on what you were doing instead of no longer doing)?
- How did the change make you feel?

Go through what you have just written and choose one to turn into a story. You can always come back to turn more into stories. Look for one that had a significant change in behavior and feeling that changes from negative to positive, or positive to negative.

4. Outline the story

On index cards with 1-3 sentences for each of the following:

- What were you like before the event changed you?
- What were you doing before the change that was an issue (rethink this, don't just copy something you wrote)?
- How were you made aware of the issue?
 - Did you start to notice? If so, how? When?
 - Did someone tell you? If so, was it a positive or negative experience for you?
- What was the thing that happened to make you want to change?
- What did you feel about the effort it would take to change?
- What did you do to change?
- How did you feel as you went through the change?
- What happened to make you first realized you had changed?
- How did you feel once you realized you had changed?
- If there were consequences of your old behavior that needed fixing, apologizing, etc., did you do any of this?
 - What did you do?
 - How did you feel about doing it?
 - How did you feel afterwards?
 - How did the other person(s) feel?

5. Write the story

Expand on the outline from #4 and answer other questions on index cards. Arrange those cards in a flow. You don't have to keep all the cards as part of the story. Some of them help you remember other parts. Some of them tell you the important parts. The flow:

1. Background
2. An inciting incident that opens the question "is something not right?"
3. Progressive complications and revelations as you search for what's not right
4. Crisis that requires you to change
5. The journey of change
6. Climax as you change
7. Resolution as you live with the change

You don't have to write the story in order. You can write parts and put them together.

Once you have something or a part of something, set it aside for at least a day. Come back to it and revise.

Once you are happy with what you have, tell friends and use their feedback for more revision. What parts:

- Engaged them
- Lost their attention
- Weren't clear
- Left them wanting more