

Storytelling Interview Framework

1. Warm-Up and Context Setting

- **Build Rapport:**
 - Start with casual conversation to help the interviewee feel comfortable.
 - Assure them that there are no right or wrong answers and that their story will inspire others.
 - **Introduce the Goal:**
 - “We’d like to share how your faith or experiences with Jesus have shaped your life. This story will be part of a collection meant to inspire and encourage others.”
 - **Ask for Their Permission:**
 - Confirm they’re comfortable sharing details and how their story will be used.
-

2. Scene Setting (The Beginning)

- **Establish the Time and Place:**
 - “When did this story take place? How old were you?”
 - “Where were you living or located at the time?”
 - “What was the environment like? Can you describe the time of year, the music playing, the cars on the road, or what life was like then?”
 - **Context of Their Life:**
 - “What was happening in your life at this time?”
 - “Were there any challenges, opportunities, or significant life circumstances you were navigating?”
 - **First Impressions:**
 - “What were your thoughts, feelings, or assumptions at the very beginning of this experience?”
-

3. The Catalyst (The Turning Point)

- **Introduce the Core Story:**
 - “What event or moment stands out as the key turning point in this story?”
 - “What was happening in your life that led up to this moment?”
 - “Were you searching for something, praying for relief, or wrestling with a big decision?”
- **Sensory Details:**
 - “Can you describe the scene in more detail—what you saw, heard, or felt during this time?”
 - “Who else was involved, and what role did they play?”

4. The Journey (The Middle)

- **The Struggle or Quest:**
 - “What challenges or obstacles did you face during this time?”
 - “Did you have any doubts, fears, or moments when you felt like giving up?”
 - “What kept you moving forward?”
- **The Faith Factor:**
 - “How did your faith, your relationship with Jesus, or prayer play a role in this journey?”
 - “Were there any specific moments where you felt God was present, even in small ways?”
- **Turning Points:**
 - “What specific event, realization, or encounter helped bring clarity or resolution?”

5. The Resolution (The End)

- **The Outcome:**
 - “How did this situation resolve itself?”
 - “What changed in your life because of this experience?”
 - “Did you see any miracles, answered prayers, or surprising outcomes?”
- **Lessons Learned:**
 - “What did you take away from this experience?”
 - “How has it shaped your life, faith, or relationships since then?”
 - “What would you say to someone facing a similar situation?”

6. Reflection and Key Takeaways

- **Insight for Readers:**
 - “If someone could take away just one thing from your story, what would you want it to be?”
 - “How does this story reflect your relationship with Jesus or the power of faith?”
 - **Personal Touch:**
 - “Is there a quote, Bible verse, or saying that reflects your outlook on life or this experience?”
 - “What would you say to your younger self going through this?”
-

7. Closing and Biography

- **Short Bio:**
 - “Can you share a little about yourself? Where you were born, your profession, your family?”
 - “What’s been your proudest achievement or something you cherish most in life?”
 - **Final Words:**
 - “Is there anything else you’d like to share about this experience or your faith?”
 - “Do you have any advice or encouragement for others?”
-

Additional Tips

- **Record the Interview:** Use a recorder (with permission) to capture every detail for reference later.
- **Use Open-Ended Questions:** Avoid yes/no questions to encourage deeper responses.
- **Follow Up on Details:** When they mention something intriguing, ask for more details. E.g., “Can you tell me more about what you were feeling when that happened?”
- **Encourage Reflection:** If they’re hesitant or uncertain, allow pauses for thought.
- **Edit and Organize Later:** Their story may not come out in a perfect sequence—focus on making them comfortable, then refine the structure during the editing phase.