



# **HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY:**

a step-by-step guide

# HOW TO GET YOUR STORY ON PAPER

We all have a story to tell, but knowing how to share our stories in a way that glorifies God and impacts the hearts of others can sometimes be challenging.

We all have a past — a story which has been orchestrated and divinely designed by God. We may even be living out a God-story in our lives right now as we walk through uncertain times where we can see God weaving a new story into our lives. As a believer, and whether we are a writer or just have a desire to write, God often places a longing in our hearts to get our story on paper. We long for Him to turn our pain into purpose while encouraging others and giving them hope for their own journeys, but sometimes obstacles get in the way.

Below are a few tips for how you can open the door for God to use your story in powerful and life-changing ways.

## **Believe your story matters.**

Many people think their stories don't matter because there are already plenty of other people who have already written about similar experiences. Keep in mind: Every person's story is different and unique. Even if someone has experienced a similar situation as you, the details involved, how God moved, victories and so on are drastically different from your own. Only you lived your life and only you can tell your story — and it matters.

## **Avoid letting fear of criticism become a stumbling block.**

*"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans 8:31b, NIV) Try not to let insecurities or a fear of criticism prevent you from following God's call to share what He has done in your life. Pray for God to remove those fears.



### **Trust God that you are qualified.**

Sometimes, even when we feel God's nudging to write or share our stories, we struggle with feeling unqualified, unworthy or ill-equipped. Who are we to decide we aren't qualified or equipped to pursue the dream God placed in our hearts? To quote an old cliché: "God doesn't call those who are qualified, He qualifies those whom He calls." If God has called you to do it, He will help you accomplish it!

### **Be confident in who God says you are.**

Despite God's assurance we are beautiful and talented in His eyes, most of us have a hard time believing that truth. As you embark on writing and sharing your story, ask God to help you push past shame and regret and refuse to let the enemy's lies steal your confidence in yourself and your call. Wear your scars proudly and ask God for the self-confidence and peace to share without worrying about what others will think or say.

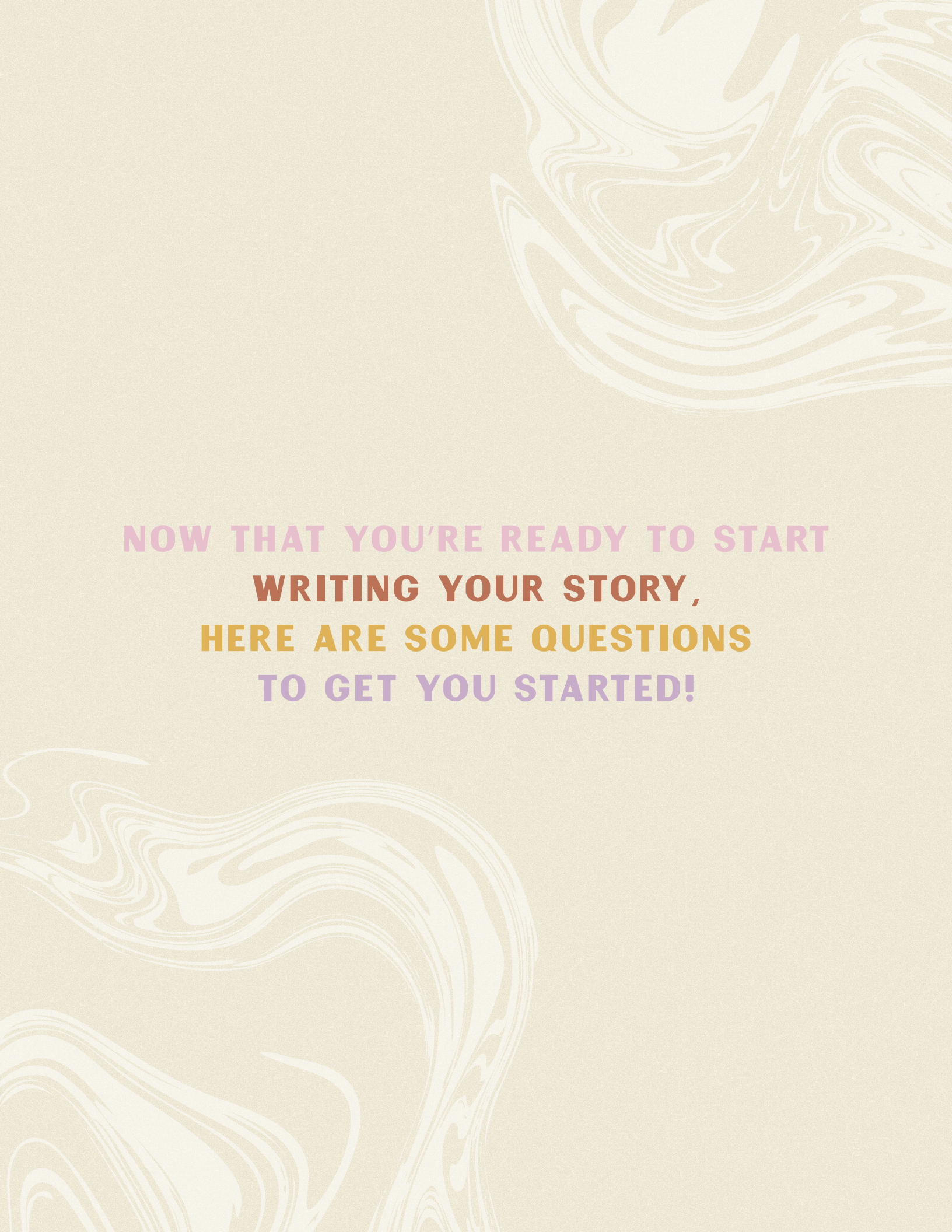
### **Don't compare yourself to others.**

Whether you have a habit of comparing yourself to others in general, or other Christian writers, make an intentional effort to stop letting your thoughts go down that path. Stay keenly aware of any self-condemning thoughts and take control of them before they control you and hinder your passion to write.

With all these things in mind, sit down and start writing your story! There is no better time than the present to get your story on paper and open the door for God to do His best work. He is the author of your story, but only YOU can help it reach those who need to hear it.

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20, NIV).*

### **We are called to be living proof of the power of a holy, living God.**



**NOW THAT YOU'RE READY TO START  
WRITING YOUR STORY,  
HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS  
TO GET YOU STARTED!**



# 5-STEP PROCESS FOR WRITING YOUR STORY

## 1. Before I received Christ, I lived and thought this way:

- My attitudes were such that ...
- My needs / life revolved around ...
- My problems / behaviors / struggles were ...
- I gained happiness from ...
- I made choices that caused me to ...
- I looked to \_\_\_\_\_ for security, peace of mind, purpose and happiness.

## 2. Due to all the things I mentioned above, I was:

- Disappointed in myself because ...
- Hopeless because I felt ...
- Unfulfilled because ...
- Struggling with my life because ...
- Struggling in my marriage because ...
- Unhappy since I could never ....

## 3. When and how I first heard about Christ:

- In a moment of prayer, Christ ...
- At my lowest point, I found God when I ...
- God used (Jane Doe) to open my eyes to see ...
- I felt an overwhelming sense of God's presence, and I ...
- My initial reaction to what I had just heard was ...
- The first time I began to see God differently was when ...

#### **4. When I received Christ, many things happened to me / many things changed:**

- My attitude changed about ...
- The way I acted changed because I began to / stopped doing ...
- Things that were once important were no longer important because ...
- I broke free of ....
- I began to be concerned about things like ... instead of ...
- I started seeing my situation through God's perspective when ...

#### **5. My life has changed in so many ways / Now I know I am a new creation because / My life now looks different because:**

- I stopped doing things that were bringing me down or causing me pain ...
- I stopped thinking ... And started believing ...
- I started seeing myself as ... instead of ...
- I began to care about ... Be passionate about ...
- I noticed God working in my life and answering prayers; for example, one time ...
- I was able to start hearing God speak and move in my life in that ...



**BEFORE YOU GET READY TO SHARE  
YOUR STORY, HERE ARE SOME THINGS  
TO KEEP IN MIND:**



# DO'S AND DON'TS OF WRITING YOUR STORY

## DON'T

**Don't** use Christian jargon or clichés which do not communicate Truth to the average non-Christian, and are often misunderstood.

**Don't** be too wordy, beat around the bush, or emphasize just how bad you had it or bad you used to be.

**Don't** exaggerate how bad your life is. Just tell it like it is. Never say things happened that didn't just to add to the story.

**Don't** speak with “glitter language” – wonderful, glorious, fantastic, fabulous, outstanding. Use these words sparingly so it doesn't come across as fake or overdone.

**Don't** give the impression that life is a bed of roses since you accepted Christ as your Savior.

**Don't** assume the reader knows the basic truths of God.

**Don't** preach. Make it a testimony, not a sermon.

## DO

**Do** always begin with an attention-getting sentence or incident.

**Do** be positive, accurate and specific with details (although not too many) in order to arouse interest in what you are getting ready to tell them.

**Do** share your real-life experiences, which do not always have to be your salvation experience.

**Do** write things as you would say them when having a conversation.

**Do** have someone else read your story and give you constructive feedback.





**NOW IT'S TIME TO WRITE YOUR STORY!**

# HOW TO WRITE OUT YOUR STORY:

What we write is just as important as how we write it.

## CREATE A STORY MAP

### 1. Choose your story

- *Is it your life story?*
- *Is it about one experience?*
- *Is it about one season of life or a particular tragedy?*
- *Pick one thing so you know what your focus is and don't get easily off track.*

### 2. Create a timeline of your life. Document memorable events and memories.

### 3. Create an outline of your story.

### 4. Determine if you need any research to support the telling of your story.

### 5. Figure out how to make your story unique and stand out from the crowd.

### 6. Be sensitive in what you choose to share so as not to disrespect or dishonor anyone else in the telling of your story.

### 7. Know full well what the point of your story is — your goal — before you begin writing it out.

*What do you want your reader to walk away with?*

*How did you overcome what you went through?*

*What led you to victory over your feelings or your past?*

*What truth do you want them to learn?*

*What passage do you never want them to think the same about again?*

*How is knowing your story going to change their life and in what way might it change it?*

*Ask yourself why you want to tell your story?*

*What is your motivation and your goal?*



If you have a desire to start sharing your story with confidence  
but need some more support and next steps, join us at

**She Speaks 2024: A Conference for Christian Communicators,  
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- Overcome feeling alone or behind, like everyone else is doing this better than you, and connect with other women who are learning alongside you.
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