

A 'One Minute Version' of Your Story

The story of how you experienced God's grace and entered into a relationship with Jesus is an important part of the declaration and commitment you are making by being baptized. As you've likely seen with the baptism educational resources we've provided (see <http://medinaeast.graceohio.org/baptism> for more information), baptism is an acknowledgment that the story of your life is now being written by the author of the story of salvation and life!

At Grace Church, we like to think of the gospel—the 'good news' about the possibility of life because of Jesus—as best summarized in three (3) acts:

1. **Radical Sin** – The world, humans included, have "missed the mark" of the design God had given us. Rather than serve as stewards and caretakers of God's good work and reflect his love in relationships, human beings have rejected God's authority for their own and are enslaved to sin and death.
2. **Radical Grace** – God in his grace—his unmerited favor toward human beings and in his relentless desire to heal their brokenness—determined to take the punishment of sin on himself, shown clearly in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, so that human beings might put right with him and live as God had intended.
3. **Radical Love** – The living and resurrected Jesus takes up residence in the hearts of human beings through the presence of the Holy Spirit, making it possible for the character of God (love!) to be expressed through human beings toward others.

This is probably one of the best ways to think through your own story, especially a 'One Minute Version' of it. ****After stating your name to start**** (this is very important!), possibly think about targeting 15-20 seconds on each of the following parts:

1. **Who You Were** – Talk about what life was like before you came to experience God's grace and initiated a relationship with Jesus. What was life like? What drove you to look at the story of Jesus as something that needed to be a part of your life?
2. **The Moment of Conversion** – What changed in your life when you met Jesus? Take a moment to briefly share some of this experience. What was it like? What did you think/feel/do?
3. **What Will Change** – Baptism is an acknowledgment that a relationship with Jesus is *launched*, which means that there is a life yet to be lived that will be in increasing conformity to the character of Jesus. What excites you about the future possibilities of following Jesus? What do you want your life to be about now that he has entered into it and transformed it?

Again, this is simply a recommendation or template if you're not sure where to start. The main point is to share the story of you coming to know Jesus and how that has already changed your life dramatically. Remember, baptism is *Going Public*, so it's simply an outward expression of this story to everyone who will listen. Your story is your and no one else's, but it will be used to honor God for how amazing his grace is now that it's become operative in your life through Jesus Christ.

So jot down some notes (only if you'd like!), get your phone, tablet or computer, press *record*, ****say your name**** and then share what Christ has done and is doing in your life!!!