

## Student Testimony Guide

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Like David in Psalm 40, we all have a story of how God has worked, and continues to work in our lives. Before we came into a life changing and renewing relationship with God, we too were in a ditch and in sinking sands that we had mistaken for living. We called and waited on the Lord and he lifted us out, recreated us, renewed us, and put a new song into our mouths. Now we are new and different and celebrate a new life and we continue to depend upon God to shape us, lead us, and to help us to live for Him. Use these verses from David's life in Psalm 40:1-17 and these questions to help you to record your own story of how you came to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

### Psalm 40:1-17, from The Message

Vs. 1: A David psalms. I waited and waited and waited for GOD. At last he looked; finally he listened.

When was it in your life that you cried out to God and heard God and felt that he was present there with you?

Vs. 2: He lifted me out of the ditch, pulled me from deep mud. He stood me up on a solid rock to make sure I wouldn't slip.

What was your life like before you met Jesus?

Where were you? How were you doing?

Vs. 3: He taught me how to sing the latest God-song, a praise-song to our God. More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to GOD.

How did your life change when God came into the picture?

How did you living a life with Jesus effect those around you?

Vs. 4-5: Blessed are you who give yourselves over to GOD, turn your backs on the world's "sure thing," ignore what the world worships; the world's a huge stockpile of GOD-wonders and God-thoughts. Nothing and no one comes close to you, God! I start talking about you, telling what I know, and quickly run out of words. Neither numbers nor words account for you.

What should others do as a response to who God is & what He has done in your life?

Vs. 6: Doing something for you, bringing something to you-- that's not what you're after. Being religious, acting pious-- that's not what you're asking for. You've opened my ears so I can listen.

God called you to a relationship with Himself: What does God want from those considering giving their lives to Him?

How has God spoken to you and what has that relationship been like for you?

Vs. 7-8: So I answered, "I'm coming. I read in your letter what you wrote about me, And I'm coming to the party you're throwing for me." That's when God's Word entered my life, became part of my very being.

What does God say about you now that Jesus has forgiven you and renewed you?

How does God see you now?

How does God celebrate you being His daughter/son?

How has God's word changed you and become a part of your being?

Vs. 9-10: I've preached you to the whole congregation, I've kept back nothing, GOD--you know that. I didn't keep the news of your ways a secret, didn't keep it to myself. I told it all, how dependable you are, how thorough. I didn't hold back pieces of love and truth for myself alone. I told it all, let the congregation know the whole story.

Why do you share your story with others and what do you hope that they will gain?

Vs. 11: Now GOD, don't hold out on me, don't hold back your passion. Your love and truth are all that keeps me together.

What do you count on in your life now?

Vs. 12-15: When troubles ganged up on me, a mob of sins past counting, I was so swamped by guilt I couldn't see my way clear. More guilt in my heart than hair on my head, so heavy the guilt that my heart gave out.

Soften up, GOD, and intervene; hurry and get me some help,

So those who are trying to kidnap my soul will be embarrassed and lose face, So anyone who gets a kick out of making me miserable will be heckled and disgraced,

So those who pray for my ruin will be booed and jeered without mercy.

How do you handle sin, troubles and difficulty now?

In whom do you put your trust to help in your hard times and need?

Vs. 16: But all who are hunting for you-- oh, let them sing and be happy. Let those who know what you're all about tell the world you're great and not quitting.

What do you hope for those who hear your story?

Vs. 17: And me? I'm a mess. I'm nothing and have nothing: make something of me. You can do it; you've got what it takes-- but God, don't put it off.

What would life be like without God?

What is your view of self in relation to God?

How do you look for God to work in your life in the future?