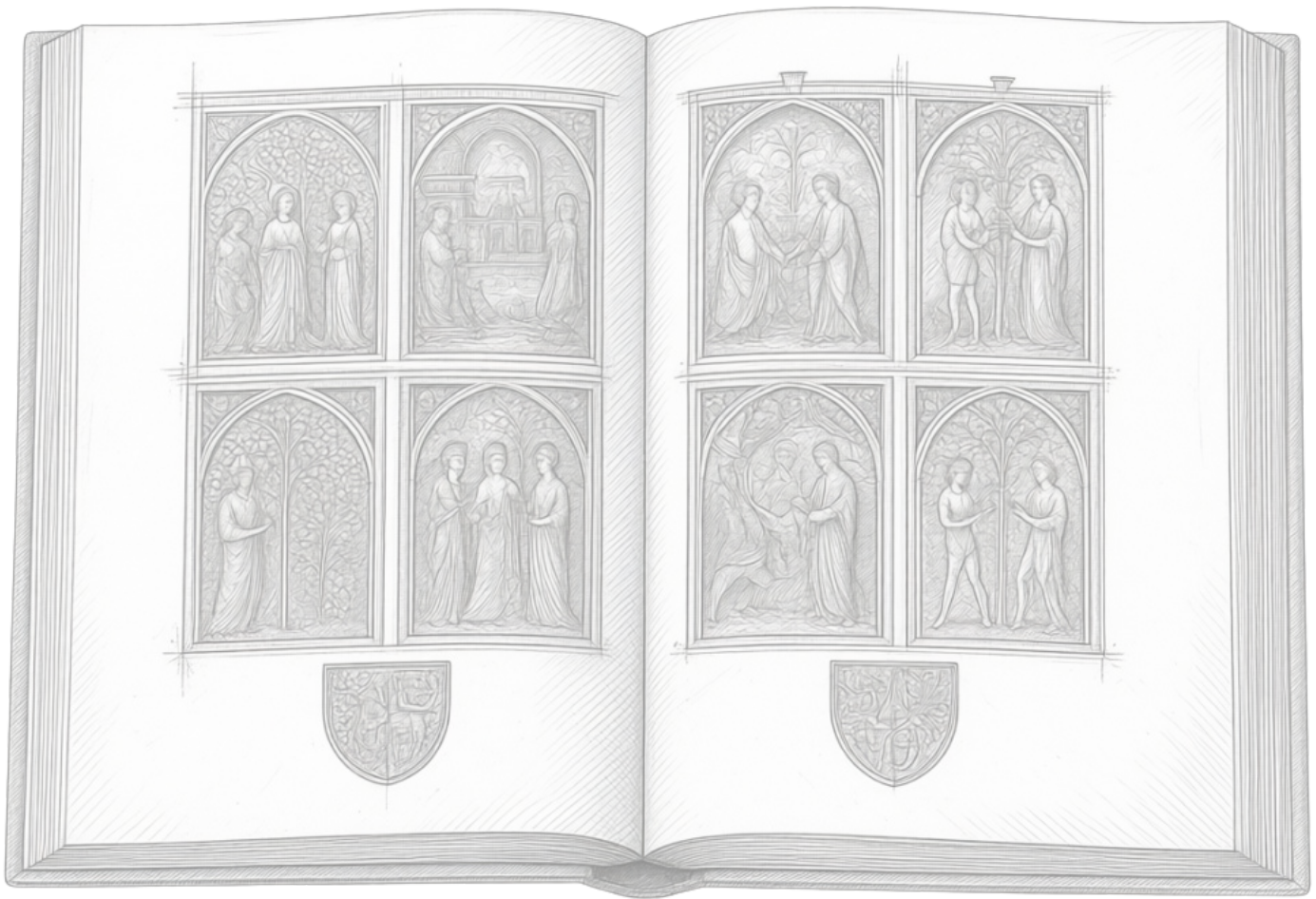


TESTIFY LIKE A PSALMIST

JUNE 2026

AT CCO



↑
“WHERE
DID I NEED
SAVING?”

↑
“WHAT
PROVISION HAVE
I RECEIVED FROM
GOD?”

↑
“WHAT
ATTRIBUTES
OF GOD HAVE I
SEEN?”

WHY TESTIFY & WHY PSALMS?

Christ's Church Oceanside is cultivating a new intentionality in how we listen to, shape, and share our testimonies. When we hear the word testimony, we often picture someone standing behind a microphone on a Sunday morning. While we are creating specific spaces for people to share from the stage, that is only a small piece of the bigger picture.

Testifying is simply sharing what you see Jesus doing, and that doesn't have to happen on stage. It happens over coffee after church, within families, in small groups, and with neighbours.

Before a testimony can be shared with others, we have to honestly understand our own story.

It begins with the story we tell ourselves about ourselves: when something good or bad happens to you, what story does your mind write it into?

Robyn Wilson's sermon from June 7, 2026 was the kickoff to this new focus. If you missed it or want to re-engage with the vision behind where we are heading, you can find the recording on our website under "Sermons."

We're using the Psalms as a model of testimony because they have the same essential purpose: praise. In the Psalms we find musings that move us toward honest story-telling and true worship.

That's our goal here: to get honest about our need, the provisions of Jesus, and the nature of God that it all reveals.

When we put our faith to work and receive from Jesus, that's a good story. It's personal, specific, and real.

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

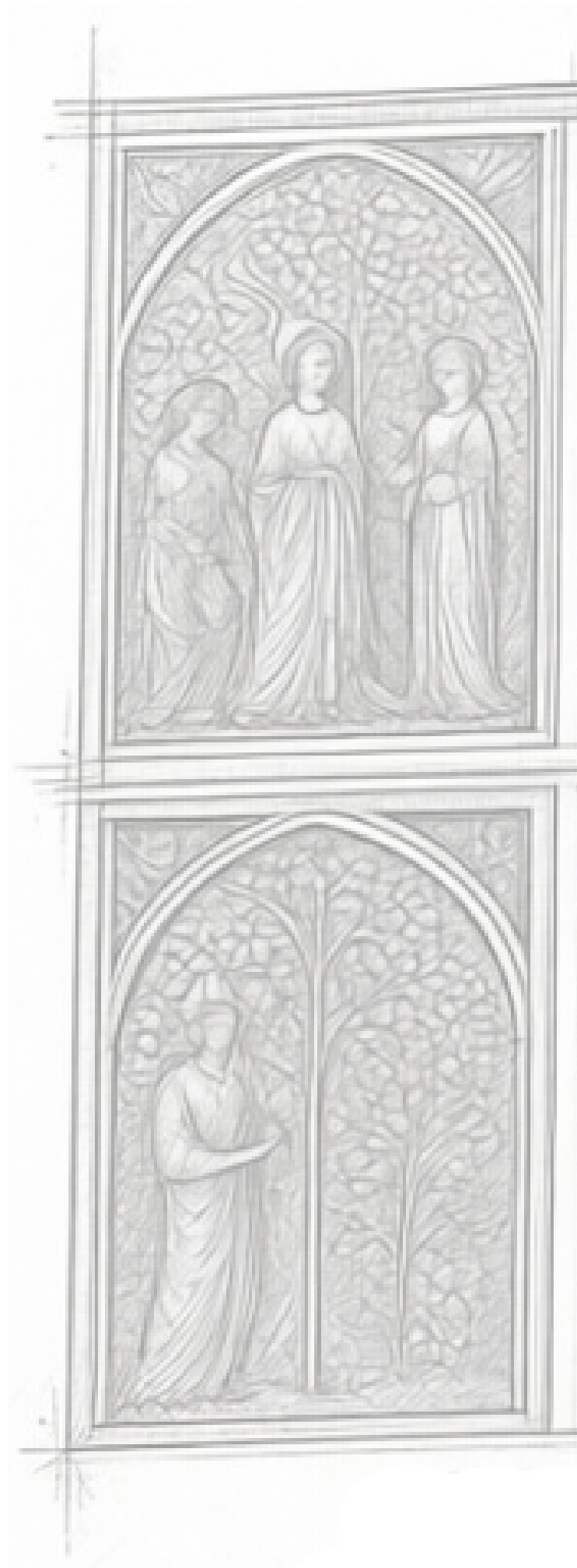
The Psalms typically open with an exhortation for the people to praise, a proclamation of praise, or a crying out to God.

A good testimony must start by looking at Jesus. Whatever we have to say about ourselves and our circumstances, we put it in the context of Jesus seated on the heavenly throne.

That's how we become good hearers of testimony too! More than anything, we're looking for Jesus in people's stories.

Remember, that's the whole point of testimony: we're praising together.

Keep this posture throughout the writing and sharing process. Then you can open with one or two sentences naming who you believe Jesus is: for example, "Jesus is the Son of God, my Saviour and King, who lived, died, rose, and ascended for me."



ARTICULATE THE NEED

The Psalmist might then give a quick summary of what they are praising for before getting specific about their need.

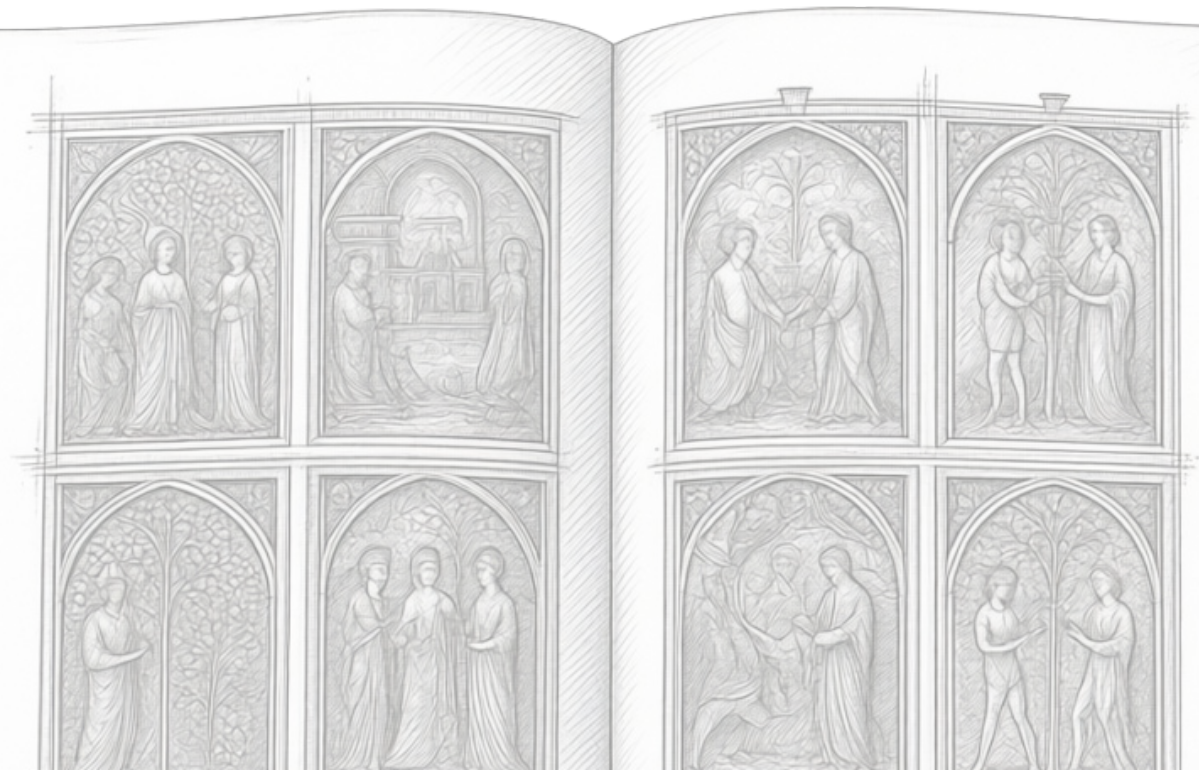
A testimony can cover

- the overarching need for Jesus throughout your life,
- a specific need you have walked through, or
- an ongoing need that you're trusting Jesus for.

If you're sharing your story of first becoming a Christian, briefly describe what your life was like before trusting Jesus. What questions, struggles, and fears were you facing?

Otherwise, you can describe what you have been struggling with. How does it reveal your need for Jesus? Be honest but simple, avoiding unnecessary detail.

You don't need to worry about whether your story is unrelatable or, conversely, whether it is cliché. Your personal details are unique, and the essential human needs behind them will resonate.



NAME THE WORK OF JESUS

Because your story isn't about need: it's about the God who sees that need and does something about it. We are celebrating the deliverance that has happened and is ongoing, so explain how Jesus directly met the specific need you described above.

Explain how the Gospel became real to you in this circumstance: through family, friends, church, Scripture.

Share one or two specific ways his Life, Death, and Resurrection have begun to change you: forgiveness, peace, hope, new desires, freedom, a new direction.

If you have received practical help (e.g., housing, friendship, employment) then tell it here, and in the next section we'll connect it to the nature of God.





REFLECT ON THE NATURE OF GOD

Now it's time to reinforce the connection between the practical rescue you experienced, and the God who provided it.

This is the gold of a testimony! Rather than just hearing from a teacher that God is good, you know it to be true experientially. So ask yourself: "when I tell this part of my story, what does it tell me about the nature of God?" Look back at your moments of need and deliverance, and don't be afraid to state the obvious.

If He provided community when you were lonely, you really know He is hospitable.

If He fed you when you were hungry, you really know He provides.

If He brought you joy in the morning, you really know He is joyful.

Then those attributes become part of the praise, and bridges the gap between your story and your listener. You want them wondering: "if Jesus provided for their need, I wonder if He would meet me in mine?"

If the process of telling your story first to Jesus helps keep your eyes on him, then this process of naming God's character keeps your listener's eyes on him.

COMMIT TO PRAISING

The Psalms often conclude with another line of praise, or sometimes even a commitment to continue praising. Finish your testimony by expressing your newfound desire to follow Jesus in this area of your life. You might name one concrete way you sense the Spirit leading you to serve or witness.

Keep in mind that you and your situation don't have to be perfect before you can share about it. Ultimately, we want to stay honest about how reliant we are on Jesus to continue to provide.

Thank you for being generous enough to share your story. We can't wait to praise God with you!

