Overview and Flashback Faith Story—An Example

Historical Overview: (sets the context for your story)

I was reared in a home where my parents loved me and taught me about God and Jesus and the Bible. They took me to a church where people believed the Bible and where the Bible was taught in a way that helped me understand the world and why it's in such a mess. As I got older and was in high school and college, I realized that not everyone had enjoyed the kind of opportunities I had experienced. And, as I saw my friends struggling to make sense out of life, my appreciation for my parents and my upbringing increased—in spite of the fact that I didn't always live consistently with what I had been taught. But now, as an adult with a family of my own, I can see even more clearly how important it is to know God and how vital it is to understand the teachings of the Bible. It gives me a great sense of hope and personal peace as I live in this chaotic world, as frightening as it is sometimes.

Flashback:

- Before

- How

- After

But having loving parents who were TRUE believers in Jesus and attending a church that believed the Bible did not make me a good person. I remember, even with all of those wholesome influences in my life, that I realized even then that I was capable of doing some bad things—things that I knew offended God. Well, obviously I was never a serial killer or down-and-out drunkard or a member of the Hells Angels, but I certainly did a lot of kid-sized bad things—the kinds of things that would have gotten even worse if God had not changed my life at an early age. Lying, intentionally hurting people, and even some petty stealing—I knew they were wrong but I did them anyway! And from what I had been taught in the Bible, I knew that those bad things were called "sins." Even though I was quite young, I remember feeling guilty for doing bad things. And from lessons in church, I knew that God was not pleased with me. I don't remember exactly when it happened, but at some point I just had to face the fact that, even though I was just a kid and looked pretty good to people who knew me, under that fake halo I was not a good person. But from the Bible, I knew that God loved me in spite of my disobedience to the teachings I knew from the Bible. And I had learned that there was nothing that I could do to turn myself into a good person—even though I tried many times to be good. My teachers in church, as well as my parents, had explained to me that God—knowing that we can't make ourselves good—sent His special Son, Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself the punishment for our sins and die on the cross in our place—as our substitute. And I knew that if I would simply place my total trust in Jesus as my Savior—to forgive me of my sins and prepare a place for me in Heaven—Jesus would do that for me. And even though I don't remember a lot about that moment, I know that I did put my total trust in Jesus. And I am confident that if I were to die right now, I would be prepared to meet God in Heaven.