

Your Story Study Guide

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Series Overview

If we have Christ, we have a powerful story. God wants to use our stories to draw others to Him. We can use Paul's example of sharing his story as our model to write and share our own stories.

Using This Guide

You may choose to use this guide:

- for personal study and reflection
- as a discussion guide with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics

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1-Church Planting

Icebreaker: Your Criteria List

Pretend you are a selection committee who will pick a person to lead a church planting effort. Make a list of criteria you would use in the selection process.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- According to the following analogy, why is church planting a key to effective evangelism?

Seeking to fulfill the Great Commission without the planting of local churches is like giving birth to a baby without a family (Mat 28:18-20).

- Discuss why it is important for a church planter to get the blessing and confirmation of their local church [**Acts 13:1-2**]. Which of the following are more likely to occur with the support of a local church?
 - Prayer support
 - Accountability
 - Correct discernment of God's voice
- It takes much planting and watering to grow a person in Christ. Make a list of examples of spiritual planting and watering. How does laboring together with other believers and God affect planting and watering [**1Cor 3:6-9**]?

Dig a Little Deeper: Church Planting is Hard Work

In what way would a successful church planter resemble each item in the following table?

Ox	1Tim 5:17-18	
Soldier	2Tim 2:3-4	
Athlete	2Tim 2:5	
Farmer	2Tim 2:6	

Application Exercise: What Are You Praying?

Make a list of things to pray for your church in all its locations. Use your list as a guide to pray each day this week.

2-Paul's Story

Icebreaker: Favorite Reality Show

What is your favorite reality television program? What about it appeals to you?

Questions for Study or Discussion

Notice the four parts to Paul's story.

- **1-Life before he met Jesus:**
 - ▶ What was Paul's life like before he met Jesus ([Acts 22:1-5](#))?
 - ▶ What was your life like before you met Jesus?

- **2-What Jesus did to reach him:**
 - ▶ What did Jesus do to reach Paul ([Acts 22:6-10](#))?
 - ▶ What did Jesus do to reach you?

- **3-How Jesus changed Paul after Paul accepted Him:**
 - ▶ How did Jesus change Paul ([Acts 22:11-16](#))?
 - ▶ How did Jesus change you?

- **4-What God was doing in Paul's life at the time he shared his story:**
 - ▶ What was God doing in Paul's life ([Acts 22:17-21](#))?
 - ▶ What is God currently doing in your life?

Dig a Little Deeper: Your Faith Experience

- In what ways did God draw you to Him [[John 6:44](#)]?
- When did you realize that you couldn't earn your way to heaven [[Eph 2:8-9](#)]?
- What have you learned about getting your eyes off yourself and on to Jesus [[1Cor 2:1-5](#)]?

Application Exercise: Write Your Faith Story

If you haven't written your faith story, do it now. If you have written your faith story, review it. What changes could make it easier to share with others?

<p>Part 1: Before You Received Christ Write a paragraph describing your life before you met Christ.</p>
<p>Part 2: How You Received Christ Write a paragraph describing how you accepted Christ.</p>
<p>Part 3: How God Changed You Write a paragraph describing how you changed after becoming a follower of Christ.</p>
<p>Part 4: What God is Doing Now Write a paragraph describing what God is doing in your life now.</p>

3-Mary Magdalene's Story

Icebreaker: Who Knows Your Faith Story?

Who in your family knows your faith story?

Who in your small group knows your faith story?

Which of your friends knows your faith story?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- What was Mary Magdalene's first message about Jesus' resurrection ([John 20:1-10](#))?
- What was Mary Magdalene's second message about Jesus' resurrection ([John 20:11-18](#))?
- As a "watchman," what is your responsibility to speak up about Christ ([Eze 3:17-21](#) and [Acts 20:24-27](#))?
- As a group, pray for the Holy Spirit to:
 - ▶ Make you aware of opportunities to initiate dialogues about spiritual things ([Col 4:3-4](#)).
 - ▶ Give you the words to say ([1Cor 2:12-13](#)).
 - ▶ Keep you focused on Jesus ([1Cor 9:16](#)).

Dig a Little Deeper: What the Resurrection Does

Validates Jesus' claims	John 14:6 and Acts 1:3
Gives absolute hope for the future	John 16:33 and Rom 8:11
Offers spiritual life right now	1Cor 15:1-7 and Eph 1:18-20

Application Exercise: Tell Your Story

A great thing about knowing that Christ loves you is that you have a story that will help others. We all have stories. Our faith stories are powerful because they are pictures of how God has moved us from bondage into new life. When you share your faith story, it could change a person's life forever.

Pray, asking God to give you a person who needs to hear your faith story.

4-Mephibosheth's Story

Icebreaker: Unmerited Favor

Justice is getting what you deserve. Mercy is not getting what you deserve. Grace is getting what you don't deserve (unmerited favor). Tell about a time when you experienced grace.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- When you appreciate the incredible mercy and grace Jesus has shown you, how do you react (**2Sam 9:8**)? Pause for a moment to pray a silent prayer thanking Him for welcoming you into His family.
- Most of us feel unworthy. It takes focus and time to feel God's grace. If we have accepted Christ as Savior, how can the following verses help?
 - ▶ **Romans 8:31-33**
 - ▶ **Hebrews 4:16**
 - ▶ **James 5:16**
- For many people, a logical argument for Christ will not help. They want to experience God rather than hear about God. If they see that God is real in your life, they are more likely to want the same thing for themselves. If you are walking with Christ, what can people see in your life that is different and compelling (**1Pet 3:15**)?

Dig a Little Deeper: To Whom, Where?

Study these passages to clarify what Scripture says about where and to whom we are to evangelize.

<i>Passage</i>	<i>To Whom and/or Where</i>
Mark 5:18-19	
John 1:40-42	
Acts 17:17	

Application Exercise: Short List

- Make a list of people you care for enough to invest a significant amount of time in getting to know them. They are on your short list.
- Pray for your short list:
 - ▶ That God helps you see them as He sees them.
 - ▶ That God helps you listen to their hearts.
 - ▶ That God helps you extend them grace.
 - ▶ That you reflect God's image to them.
 - ▶ That God helps you recognize the open doors.
 - ▶ That God gives you the words to say when you do get an open door.