



A fulfilling life:

- Is shared with God and others.
- Is out of our comfort zone.

Your story is important because:

- It helps others know you.
- It helps others understand you.
- It helps identify where you've come from.

8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! Ephesians 5:8 (NLT)

- It helps us to identify with His Story.

16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord from his sins, then the veil is taken away.
 17 The Lord is the Spirit who gives them life, and where he is there is freedom [from trying to be saved by keeping the laws of God].

18 But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him. 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (TLB)

29 For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son... Romans 8:29 (TLB)

Allowing God to write Your story:

- Embrace the character God's creating.

1 Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up... Hebrews 12:1a (LB)

- Allow your scars to be tattoos of God's presence.

1 ...And let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us. Hebrews 12:1b (LB)

- Live dependently.

2 Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God... Hebrews 12:2 (MSG)

- Align my activity to God's Story.

11 We don't enjoy being disciplined. It always seems to cause more pain than joy. But later on, those who learn from that discipline have peace that comes from doing what is right. Hebrews 12:11 (GW)

- Your Story is a process not an event.

6 ...Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

NOTES:

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

Connection Group Leaders: During this series give your Connection Group a Camp feel. Maybe add Games, Projects, crafts, s'mores around a campfire, etc.

- What spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Is a life shared with God and others really important? Explain why.
- What would you rate the value of your story? (from 1 - 10, 10 = priceless)
- Do you believe it is important to share your story with others? Why?
- How does hearing someone's story help you understand them?
- Do you see God as the author of your story? What does that mean to you?
- When you read 2 Cor. 3:16-18 & Romans 8:29...What is God working into our lives? Describe what that looks like in us.
- God has a goal for who He wants us to become. How does Hebrews 12:1a encourage us towards this goal?
- How do our hurts, pain and loss contribute (accentuate) what God is doing in us?
- God is the author of our story; how do we partner with God in what He is doing within us?
- How do you trust God with the process of your story? (The ups and downs, good and bad)

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