

I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. Deuteronomy 30:19

Our personal experience with Jesus will always change our personal story of Jesus.

35 The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. 36 As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" 37 When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. John 1:35-37

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. 41 Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ"). John 1:40-41

42 Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. John 1:42

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me."... 45 Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. John 1:43-46

• People who encounter Jesus share their **story** of Jesus.

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:13-16

Question: How has knowing Jesus given you hope?

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Hebrews 10:23

...Each day tell someone that he saves. Psalm 96:2

4 Questions that shape your Story:

• What were you like before you met Jesus?

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—<u>and I am the worst of them all.</u> 16 But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:15-16

- How did you realize you needed Jesus?
- How did you commit your life to Jesus?
- How is your life **different** because of Jesus?

Our Homework:

Write out your story so you can remember it and share it in 90 seconds.

Write out a version of our story we can share in about 3-4 minutes.

Practical steps to share your story:

- Begin every day with prayer.
- Listen for a **struggle** in their life.
- Don't push your story on others.
- Lead them in a "next step".
- Follow up with them.

Additional Notos

"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19–20

| Additional Notes. | | | | | | | |
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TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

• Connection Group discussion should be a little different this week. You can discuss the Talk, but the goal is for everyone to share their 90 second story of the difference Jesus has made in their life.

Work through the "4 Questions that shape your story".

"What you were like before Jesus" <u>should be the shortest part of your story</u>. (Remember, don't exaggerate) What was the condition of your life when you realized you needed Jesus? What inspired you to surrender (or commit) your life to Jesus? And most importantly, how is your life different because of Jesus?

This is an opportunity to practice sharing your story with others. Write two versions of your story: 1. 90 seconds long. 2. 3-4 minutes

Talk through the "Practical steps to sharing your story". Why are these important?

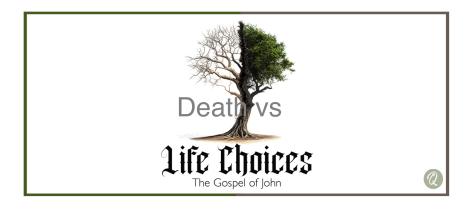
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Today's Talk..



Share your Story

