

Session 7

Telling My Story

Key Point: Turning your testimony into a story.

Key Encouragement: You have a story that people need to hear.

Session Goals:

Pray for each other's family and friends.

Sharing the Good News about Jesus is a beautiful act of love.

Learn how to tell our story in four parts.

Introduction

Every Christian has a story about how they became a Christian and why they stay a Christian. It will *always* be a story about how God, in Christ, transforms our identity, brokenness, security and hope. But it will always be a *unique* story because people are different, our experiences are different, and how Jesus meets us in the particulars of our life is different. No two stories will be exactly the same.

Further, our story has many chapters because our relationship with God is multifaceted and dynamic. When we share our story with others, sometimes we share one chapter and at other times we share a different chapter. Some chapters are yet to be written so it is helpful to reflect regularly and update our stories.

What key points were made in the video? Did anything stand out for you?

In Session 6 Review we looked at the Gospel summary 321. What stood out for you about this summary of God's story?



God's Story

In God's sovereign kindness, it might be your particular story about Jesus that someone needs to hear so that they can call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

Read Romans 10:9-15.

Paul speaks about God sending people to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

1. How does someone become a Christian (9-13)?

2. What is the flow of logic in 13-15? How does each phrase lead into the next?

3. What encouragement does this passage give us to share our story with those around us?

God invites us to partner with Him in His work of salvation through the preaching of the Gospel. It is a great responsibility, but it is also a wonderful privilege.

My Story

Choose one chapter of your story with God to reflect on and write about now. Use specific, real-life examples to show clearly the difference that knowing Jesus makes to your life. Look at the Summary Table at the end of Session 6 if you want to jog your memory about the key ideas and questions that we discussed in each stage. Give this story context by framing it in the four stages of God's story: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Re-creation.

If you are struggling to come up with a topic or story to write about, have a look at the following questions and see what comes to mind.

- **When we prayed for your friends and family, was there one part of your story with Jesus that you really wanted to share with them?**
- **When we explored each stage in God's story, was there one stage that particularly resonated with you? Or was there one 'My Story' question that you wanted to spend more time on?**
- **Ask the group which aspect of your story they would like to hear more about.**
- **Answer the question 'What do I enjoy about life with Jesus?' This question highlights why you 'stay' a Christian.**
- **Answer the question 'Why did I become a Christian?' While this question overlaps with 'how' you became a Christian,**

it focuses attention *more* on personal motives and impact, and *less* on the timeline of events.

Take ten minutes to sketch out your story in the four stages. Then use your notes to tell your story to each other. Try to keep it to three minutes each so that you focus on the key points.

Creation and Identity	
Fall and Brokenness	
Redemption and Security	
Re-creation and Hope	

Give each other feedback.

- Point out any use of Christian jargon.
- Where and how did Jesus come up?
- Which part of each story really spoke to you, or encouraged you, or challenged you? Why?
- What part of the story would you like to hear more about? Why?

Share

Share any stories about evangelistic opportunities that God gave you this week. Some might seem like successes; others might feel like failures. Some might be interesting conversations you would like to pray about and then pick up again in the future.

- Which people would you like to share Jesus with next week? When will you talk with them?

Pray

Brothers and sisters, my [Paul's] heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

Romans 10:1 (NIV)

Use this passage to guide your prayers for each other and for the family and friends you shared about earlier.

- Praise God for people who shared the Good News with you.
- Ask God to help you so love the people around you that it becomes your 'heart's desire and prayer' that they may be saved.
- Invite God to send you anywhere He chooses to.
- Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

Review

1. Listen to Sam Chan tell his story. Listen from 6:10 min to the 10:30 min mark: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfXnVkpmsyI
 - a. Which of our themes (identity, brokenness, security, and hope) comes up?
 - b. What does Sam tell us about Jesus?
 - c. How did he use specific stories to illustrate his points?
2. Read through the 'My Story' questions that we looked at in previous sessions. What other stories can you tell about knowing Jesus and the difference that knowing Him makes? Write out another chapter of your story in the four stages.