



WEEK THREE: SHARING YOUR STORY – Study Guide

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We all have a story that can be an encouragement to others. You can serve as an example of lifelong faithfulness to Jesus, a dramatic conversion from a reckless lifestyle, or many different things in-between. Getting a grasp of your story and sharing it in a way that is real can lead others to Jesus and encourage other Jesus followers.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) How comfortable are you with sharing your story? Is it something you do often? Or, do you avoid it because you think your story is too boring, embarrassing, or revealing?

Into the Bible

- 2) There are several instances of people spreading the gospel by telling their stories. Look at the following passages where that happens. Who was the audience? What parts of their story did they tell? What was the response?

a. **Mark 5:1-20**

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b. **John 1:43-51**

c. **John 9**

d. **Acts 26:1-29**

How Does This Apply?

- 3) Think through your story. Just like any good story, your story has certain plot lines. A great outline to use is: **character, problem, hero, and solution**. Share what your life was like before Jesus (character). What made you realize you needed Jesus (problem)? Share the story of how you met Jesus, confessed that you're a sinner, and asked Him to forgive and lead you (hero). How is your life different now (solution)? Remember that not everyone's life changes in ways that outsiders would necessarily notice—like finances and family relationships. Write out an outline of your story below and practice telling it with your Life Group.

- 4) Even people who don't know Jesus have a story. The difference is that ours has been intersected by the gospel. How can you make sure that your story is one that makes a big deal of Jesus, not just a story about you?

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5) Who can you tell your story to this week?

Continue Learning on Your Own

6) Earlier in this study guide we saw an instance where Jesus told the Gerasene demoniac to tell people what God had done for him in **Mark 5**. However, there were also several instances where Jesus healed people or otherwise changed their lives and He clearly told them not to tell anyone. Does that seem strange to you? Why would Jesus tell someone *not* to tell others about what He had done in their lives?

Read: **Mark 1:43-45, Mark 5:43, Mark 9:9**