



THE WAYS

TELL YOUR STORY. God has done and is doing something unique in your life. Has God answered a prayer, provided help, or blessed you? Share it. Ask God for opportunities to share your faith in Christ by words and deeds.

1. What is a story in your life where God has shown up?

READ Luke 8:26-39

1. If you were that guy, how would you tell the story?
2. How do powerful stories like this make you feel about your own faith story?
3. Is God less good or less powerful in the lives of people who have never been possessed but have lived a “normal” life?

Scenario: When you think about your story with God, it doesn't really feel that exciting. You used to go to church. You stopped for a while and did some things you're not that proud of but you enjoyed at the time, and then you came back. You feel like if you told your story, you would be setting a bad example for kids with some of the things you did and that no one would really care because God never cast demons from you.

1. Why do you think we elevate extraordinary stories with God?
2. How do you balance honesty and modesty when sharing your story?
3. How can God's power in the little things be more compelling than in monumental actions?
4. Break into pairs and take a walk together to share your actual story.

We love the story of the person who has overcome all odds. We idolize the story of people who have experienced a radical transformation. But better yet, is the story of a person who has sought after God through obedience and, at times, from a place of disobedience. Our community is filled with seemingly mundane stories of God's grace and care. Do not fall into the trap of thinking that since God never parted an ocean in your life that He hasn't been active.

PRAY TOGETHER. (Pray in gratefulness for the gifts God has put in your life for you to enjoy. Now rest and enjoy them.)

DAILY Devotional

MONDAY: *READ:* Psalm 107:1-9+43. *THINK:* Scripture is full of peoples stories, but nowhere else are you commanded as clearly to *Tell Your Story* as in Psalm 107. If you are redeemed, then you should *Tell Your Story*. Spend some time today thinking though who God has been in your life and what He has done. As you look to *Tell Your Story*, it is first important to know it. *PRAY:* with God to seek out what He has been doing in your life and who He has shown himself to be.

TUESDAY: *READ:* Acts 1:1-11. *THINK:* Those who receive the Holy Spirit are called to be “witnesses.” You and I have received that same Spirit. We can offer evidence of God’s character, might, and work. We are the ones who make the case for others to believe in and trust God. It is as integral for you to *Tell Your Story* as it is for a witness at trial to share their evidence. *PRAY:* God would give you opportunities to *Tell Your Story*.

WEDNESDAY: *READ:* John 4:7-18. *THINK:* Sometimes our story seems too shameful to share. We worry that if others knew they would look down on us. So we hide it away and we hide ourselves away. When we hide our story, we make barriers between ourselves and community. Jesus doesn’t expose the woman’s shame to degrade her but to bring her past into the open. When you do not let shame or judgement keep you from *Telling Your Story* to those you can trust? *PRAY:* the Church would be a safe space for people to share hard stories.

THURSDAY: *READ:* Genesis 14: 17-24. *THINK:* The life story of Melchizedek has to be the greatest life story never told. This guy is a priest completely outside of the call of Abraham and God’s chosen people. Did God reveal himself to Melchizedek? We don’t know because his story is never told. You may not be a priest who blesses Abram, but you have stories of God’s goodness and grace which should not be lost. *Tell Your Story*. (If you want to know more read Hebrews 7). *PRAY:* God would embolden you to *Tell Your Story*.

FRIDAY: *READ:* Lamentations 3:1-6 and 55-60. *THINK:* Sometimes your story isn’t happy and uplifting. Sometimes your story wrestles with how God can actually be good in the middle of all this mess. *Tell Your Story* anyway. Faith is rarely simple, though we try our best to make it seem so. We need more stories of struggle and uncertainty in our church if for no other reason than to tell others “You are not alone.” *PRAY:* that God would show you how to wrestle with Him well.

SATURDAY: *READ:* Luke 2:36-38. *THINK:* The Bible is written in a strongly patriarchal society, yet stories of strong women are still raised up. Maybe not as many as our modern sensibilities would like, but more than were common in that day. Christianity was once at the front line of hearing and telling the stories of the shunned or oppressed, and we can be again. No matter who you are and where your from, when we become a community who looks to *Tell Your Story*, we normalize, value, and empower all walks of life. *PRAY:* that God would bring up the stories in our community which are undertold.