

Your Story — My Story

Your lives are echoing the Master's Word—
The news of your faith in God is out.
We don't even have to say anything anymore—you're the message.

~1 Thessalonians 1:8 (Message)

Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them.

~1 John 5:10 (GWT)

When you gave your heart to Christ, you became His message bearer to your part of the world—friends, family, community. This concept can be stretched to mean your city and your world. Your life is a book of experiences that God wants to use to encourage and bring others to Him. God will open doors for you to connect with these people. He wants to help write the history of His church through you.

BEGIN NOW BY:

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Pray your way into the life story of others. Ask God to show you individuals that He wants you to be praying for. Look for what you might do that will help you connect with them.

CARING FOR OTHERS

Care enough to listen to them as they share their story. Listen for what God might be telling you that they might be needing God to do for them...or what He is already doing for them. Hear what He wants to do. (Story exchange)

SHARING WITH THEM

Share with them the parts of your Jesus story that are relevant to their story. You will have opportunities to share the bigger picture as you share the role of Jesus in your life and how He has made a difference in the outcomes of your story. Even if you have had difficult or painful experiences, you need to share them with those who might be encouraged by how God helped you. Shared stories build bridges from your house to theirs for Jesus to cross.

Reflect on four aspects of your story, your “life message” and how God has written them into each day of your life. Write your reflection on the back of this page.

- **Your Testimony:** How did you come to know Jesus? People will relate to your story better than they will to theology or lectures.
- **Your Life Lessons:** Through your experiences, what are the most important lessons that God has taught you? Think about lessons from your relationships, family, disappointments, failures, painful experiences, good experiences, illnesses. How did you respond?
- **What are the issues/things that God has given you a passion for?** You are the one chosen by God—God’s instrument to do His work and speak out for Him. To tell others of the night and day difference He made for you—from nothing to something—from rejected to accepted. (1 Peter 2:19, Message). What burdens has God put on your heart? (Homelessness, abuse, orphans, missions, service, business, ministry; what do you care about the most?) How does this passion help you relate **to what God's plan may be for you?**

Part of your story, as God's “living message,” is that you will want to share the good news of Jesus with those who do not know Him. You will want to learn to love the lost, because Jesus loves them and because God does not want anyone to be lost.

- Ask God to help you love those who are lost.
- Ask Him to make you willing to do whatever it takes to build a relational bridge.

(adapted from, Seek God for the City, 2009, Waymakers, Publishing.)