



How to Help your Group Share Their Stories

Share Your Story

A Call To Share Your Story

In the book of Deuteronomy, we are challenged 16 times to remember God and what he has done for us in the past. For God's people Israel, this was the only way they could identify God's work in their lives. They were challenged to remember and to tell those stories to their community and to their families as a way to worship God and to be aware of what he was doing in their lives and in their community.

One of the 7 Rhythms of Discipleship is sharing your story. When we think back on our lives and try to identify what God has done, it helps us fulfill what Deuteronomy tells us to do. We should think about what our life was like before we came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. We should think about how we made the decision to make Jesus our Lord and Savior, and we should think about how our life has changed since we made that decision. This is the foundation of our story. But each person has many, many details that are a part of those three phases of their life. It is an important spiritual tool to learn to know the details of these phases of our lives, and then to be able to share them with people as they are needed and relevant. If your group has been through Rooted and Shapes of Rooted, you have seen firsthand how important sharing our stories is to our spiritual growth. If you have not been through Rooted, or haven't ever focused on your own story, sharing your story has two powerful impacts.

Bonding in Your Group

When we share our story in our life group, it tends to create a bond between group members. We learn about each other and we discover similarities in the way we have experienced God. We also are reminded about ways God has worked in our lives when we hear how he has worked in someone else's life.

Sharing Your Story

Another impact of sharing our story is that it prepares us to be able to share parts of our story with people who have not yet chosen to become a follower of Jesus. Our story provides some common ground that can help people understand what it looks like to follow Jesus, and how it can impact their lives. If we have prepared ourselves by knowing the details of our own story, we can easily insert them into a conversation. This may be your most powerful tool to share Jesus with someone in your life.

How to Share Your Story

If your group has never shared their stories together, you might want to begin by having one or two people share their story each week for a few weeks. Encourage them to take about 5 minutes to explain the three parts of their story: their life before Jesus, how they accepted Jesus, and how their life is different after choosing to follow Jesus. You can schedule people to share so that they have time to prepare what they want to say. This may help take some of the pressure off. Some may share longer and some shorter and that is fine, as long as they don't take up the whole meeting!

Once your group has all shared their stories, you can circle back to it after a few months. You might just plan a night where you ask everyone to share their story in two minutes. This will allow everyone to share, and will encourage them to focus on the important points of their story. Sharing your story with your group a few times can help you learn from your own life. Sharing can also help you make sense of your life currently as you are reminded how God has worked in the past. This practice also helps to prepare you to share your faith with someone you care about.

Taking time to share stories in your group is a way to bring glory to God, and will help your group grow together and will strengthen the faith of the members in your group!