

Share: Stories

Day 1:

Read John 3:1-8

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, came to see Jesus at night. Why do you think he came?

What did Jesus tell him about seeing the Kingdom of God? How did Nicodemus respond?

Jesus explained: *flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.* No one can enter the Kingdom unless they are born again.

We all have a natural birth story. We know our birth date. But those in Christ have a spiritual birth story too. The story of being born again.

Consider yours today. Write it down. Come back to it during the week. Condense it to about 100 words, so you can share it in just a few minutes.

Day 2:

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Paul shared his story with Timothy, a young preacher whom he was mentoring. How does Paul begin his story? What does he reveal about himself in this account? What did he experience with Jesus?

What is Paul sharing at the heart of his story? What does the re-remembering of his history with Christ lead him to?

This is Paul's before-and-after story. Consider yours. Who were you before you received His mercy? What about after? Does it fill you with thanks? Move you to praise?

How might you prepare yourself to share the story of the Gospel in your life to introduce others to Him and bring Him glory?

Day 3:

Read Acts 2:14-41

Pentecost. The disciples received the Spirit and began speaking in tongues. A confused crowd gathered. Peter stood up and told them a story.

What story did Peter tell the crowd? What did he call himself and the disciples in regard to the story? What hard truth did he deliver to the crowd? How did they respond?

They were all part of the story Peter told, but he gave them the rest of the story. Have you been a part of a story which later revealed a hard truth?

Has someone told you a story which revealed truth to you? How did you respond?

Do you have a story which would help others know truth?

Day 4:

Read Psalm 40:1-3

Describe the psalmist's story in your own words. What is at the heart of his story?

What does he do in response to his experience with God? How does he see it affecting others?

Without a lot of detail, he tells a story of despair and deliverance because of his trust in the Lord. He expects his story to encourage others to trust God more too.

Do you have a story which could encourage others to trust Him more? What is it?

Day 5:

Seeking Perspective through Examen

Close your eyes. Breathe in... Breathe out...

This week we studied and discussed the power of sharing our stories. What portion of your story drew you closer to God? Which part left you feeling far from Him?

What story is God calling you to share? What resistance stirs in you?

The Father's perspective: Consider the eternal purpose of the story God is calling you to share. He allowed this to come into your life. How has He used it for your good? For the good of others?

The Son's perspective: Jesus's very breath pours out forgiveness and grace over us. How have you embraced His grace in your story? Is there something you still can't quite surrender to His grace? Why?

The Spirit's perspective: How has the Spirit used your story to transform you? Are you different than before? How? What would have to decrease in you for you to share your story?

Close your time of prayer with a song of praise or a Psalm. Give thanks. Maybe take a praise walk, all the while talking to Jesus as your friend.