

TELLING YOUR STORY WITH JESUS AS THE HERO

Your story is ultimately God's Story. It's by him and about him. Your story is good news, a story about God's redemption of a broken person. Though we regularly believe that our stories are about us, our stories are really about God. He is the main character and the hero, not you. "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever." (Romans 11:36). Think through the four elements of your story, and consider how each one is an opportunity to point to your need for God and his work. Our stories consist of a countless string of smaller scenes, so begin by praying and asking the Holy Spirit to show you which parts you should include in your gospel story.

(1) Creation - Background Info

We all come from different places and have various fundamental beliefs about our origin – who or what gave us our existence, made us who we are, and shaped us into the person we are today. All of us have looked to someone or something other than God to define us, to give us a sense of worth and value. *As you begin your gospel story, talk about your background, your family of origin, some early shaping influences, and what gave you your sense of worth and value.*

Gospel Questions: What is your background? Who or what most shaped your understanding of yourself? What were the sources of your sense of personal value and identity?

(2) Fall - Before Following Jesus

God's Story shows us that our own sin is the primary thing that wreaks havoc on our lives. As you tell your gospel story, talk about specific ways that your sin brought about pain and destruction in your life. Include failed attempts at fixing the brokenness in your life.

Gospel Questions: How was your relationship with God and others not the way God created it to be? What specific areas of sin held you captive?

(3) Redemption - Coming to Know and Follow Jesus

The Redemption movement of your story has the potential to be very powerful because you get to declare your faith in Jesus as the One who has saved and rescued you. *Talk specifically about how and what happened to lead you to place your trust in Christ and to turn away from sin and from following yourself.*

Gospel Questions: How has Jesus redeemed and rescued you through his death on the cross? How did you come to put your faith and trust in Him to save you and restore your life to the way God intended it to be?

(4) Restoration - Walking with Jesus Now

Because of what Jesus has done, restoration has begun. We are a new creation, and we've been made right with the Father! In God's Story, restoration means that his image bearers begin to live in the way they were originally created to live. His Spirit lives in and through us, making us more like Jesus, even though we are still living in a fallen, broken world. Conclude your gospel story by talking about what the Spirit is doing in your life now.

Gospel Questions: What has changed for the better as a result of following Christ? In what areas of your life has God brought redemption and healing? What areas are you still seeking Jesus to redeem and restore?