

INSPIRED WORD
October 24, 2018

How to Share Your Story – Review talk and practice exercise

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, You call us tonight to be here in this place, Lord, to experience the love that You pour forth upon us, Your mercy, Your Word. Help us look to You, Lord, and drop all of the things that we are concerned with in our daily lives and look to You this hour, this place. Jesus, we love You. Jesus, send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us; draw us together as a people, a people of praise. Jesus, Jesus. We open our hearts to Him tonight, people of God. Glory to You. O let Your living water flow here tonight.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

From **Ezekiel 9:11-10:8**: *Just as the man clothed with linen, who had the ink horn at his side, reported back and said, "I have done as you commanded me." And I looked and there in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubim there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of the throne. And he spoke to the man clothed in linen and he said, "Go in among the wheels of the cherubim; fill your hands with the coals of fire from under the cherubim and scatter them over the city." And he went in as I watched. Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple, when the man went in and the cloud filled the inner court. Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherubim and paused over the threshold of the temple, and the house was filled with the cloud and the court was filled with the brightness of the Lord's glory. And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when he speaks. And it happened when he commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take fire from among the wheels from among the cherubim," and he went in and stood beside the wheels. O Lord, we just praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. We thank You for the shekinah glory of Your presence. We thank You for Your presence in this place. We magnify and glorify and exalt Your holy name.*

PRAYER

We open our hearts to you, O Lord. Jesus, Jesus our strength; Jesus our consolation; Jesus our Savior; Jesus our Lord; Jesus our shepherd; Jesus, the holy one of God; Jesus, mighty Lord; Jesus.

SCRIPTURE / WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

As we sang that song of "Amazing Grace" we were talking about the nature of God. What is the nature of God? And I just was hearing that He's gracious and merciful. And I said, "Where is that about you, Lord?" And in the prophet **Joel** it says (**2:13**): *Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.* And as we prayed that song to the Lord, it was as if the Lord was saying, maybe to someone here, "Return to me; return to me, for I am gracious and I am merciful. I am slow to anger and I am abounding in steadfast love."

PRAYER

So Lord, You call us to receive Your love, to receive Your mercy, to receive Your forgiveness. O Lord, from bondage You set us free; from sin You set us free; from doubt You set us free; from fear You set us free; from loss of hope You set us free; from worry You set us free. O Jesus.

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE

I confirm what Barb read from Joel. While we were singing that song I was looking at **Psalm 145:8-9**. It says: *The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all, and compassionate to all his works.* And the scripture I originally came up to read was **Romans 5:2-5**: *Through him we have gained access by faith to the grace in which we now stand, and we boast of our hope for the glory of God. But not only that, we even boast of our affliction. We know that affliction makes for endurance, and endurance for tested virtue, and tested virtue for hope, and this hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

CONFIRMATION / SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In confirmation - **Joel 2:23-29**: *"Be glad, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord, your God; for he has given you the former rain faithfully and he will cause the rain to come down for you, the former rain and the latter rain of the first month. The threshing floor will be full of wheat and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never be put to shame. And it shall come afterwards that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also among menservants and maid servants, I will pour out my spirit in those days."* Thank You, Lord, we thank You that You have promised the former rain, the latter rain, and to pour out Your Spirit. We just magnify You and thank You so much for the promise that You have given us and the things that You wish to do among us this night and going forward in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PROPHECY

And lo, I hear a voice, a voice of love and compassion, not condemnation, and lo, I hear a voice, a voice that beckons, a voice that says “come”, a voice that says “fear not”, a voice that says “receive my love and my mercy. I do not speak to you of condemnation; I speak to you of love and mercy.”

CONFIRMATION / SHARING

I want to confirm that with a story that happened to me today. Many of you know that I work at Memorial Hospital in the women’s services. So basically a lot of our babies are born early, prematurely, so seven months ago we had a little baby girl who was born. She weighed two pounds. Her mother and father asked me to go up to the unit and pray, so I said okay. I went there for an hour and a half, prayed with the family over the baby. Today they came to visit me. The baby is seven months old. The last time I saw her she fit into my hand, little tubes all over her. Today, seven months old – she came to the hospital. They brought her to me to visit. She was wearing this little pink jumpsuit and her little feet were kicking and her cheeks were all chubby and her hair was black – beautiful little baby girl. Her name is Charlene. And they said, “Look, look at this baby. You helped us during a difficult time in our life.” And I was just going up there to pray because I like to pray. Who knew that God was using me? For the last few months... why me, Lord? Why are You seeking me? I am a sinner. And today He confirmed why He’s using me. These families, they just need somebody to give them hope. And now this beautiful baby girl with chubby cheeks – and her father said, “This baby’s going to call you Auntie.” How honored am I; how honored am I. And then two months ago we had a little girl born and her name is Bella. I went up and her mother said, “Please come and pray with my baby.” She’s a single mother, doesn’t have family in town. Well, I’ll come and pray with you, spent another hour and a half. She fit into my hand too. Her mother came to me last week Friday. This baby is flourishing; she no longer needs oxygen, she no longer needs tubes. This baby’s going to go home soon. “You came to me when I needed prayer.” God can use you when you least expect it. I was just praying; I was just praying over this little baby. And now she’s getting ready to go home. I think she’s at five pounds, which is normal, but from two pounds to five pounds – that’s a lot in two months. Her name is Bella and hopefully one day she’ll call me Auntie too. But that is how good God is. I went up there just to pray and the last three months I say: Why are You seeking me, Lord? Why are You seeking me? I am a sinner. And He validates: “This is why I need you. This is why I need you. Go to the NICU.” So God is good; God is love; God is mercy.

CONFIRMATION / WORDS OF WISDOM

Leticia, I just want to confirm that for you. Father Paul, the former pastor here, used to talk a lot about that there’s a lot of places he can’t go as a priest that we as lay people get to go. We get the privilege of going into those special situations. And you’re right where you need to be,

being God's light in that place. But we all have a place where we've been put, where we've been planted and expected to bloom and share God's love.

SHARING

Recently I've been working on surrendering and last Sunday I was feeling down and I didn't know what to do so I said to God: Holy God, today may I do Your will. Now one of the things recently that God has been showing me is His will is not to go so fast. You can see what happens when I do. God's been saying "slow down and relax more; don't be rushing so much." And one of the things I learned was like, for instance, if I'm going for a coffee, rather than getting a coffee, getting in my car and going, is to stay around and relax and drink the coffee there and socialize and just relax. So on Sunday I stopped... I like to find new coffee shops because I like to buy really good coffee, like organic, low acid, really good coffee. And I stopped at this new place and I saw when I drove in that there was a pond there. So I got the coffee and I started to go to my car and then it hit – stay and relax. So I decided to walk around the pond which is a small pond. And God had to know this, He had to know this. On the back end of the pond which I couldn't see, I swear, was an oak tree which you don't usually find in Colorado. I'm from New England and in the fall it really makes me sad because I miss New England; I miss my home where I came from; I miss the fall colors. And there was this oak tree with reds and oranges and yellows and greens. And I was like so delighted and happy. I said: O my God, this has to be God because you just don't see oak trees. And to add to it, right around the corner, one of my second favorite things was a waterfall. It was a man-made waterfall but that's another thing I love is water. It was right around the corner. And God had to give me a third thing. I was supposed to be doing His will. There was a guy, a father came over and talked to me which was really nice because usually that doesn't happen because parents are too busy with their kids. And you know, like I said, I had been feeling sad that day and alone. And this father biking around came and talked to me. And it was totally amazing because I started the day saying: I want to do Your will, Father. And the Father turned it around and said, "I want to do your will too. What's in your heart I want to see happen." And all of these things that were in my heart, to see New England, a small pond, a connection – it happened. And it was awesome. So I'm working on doing God's will some more. I just loved the day.

SCRIPTURE

There's this wonderful phrase that says: *Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God (Matthew 5:8)*. And the corollary is: Because they're the only ones who want to. When we seek His will, He gives the desires of our heart, because our heart is aligned to His heart.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In the Gospel of **John**, Jesus says: *Whoever is thirsty should come to me. And whoever believes in me should drink. As the scripture says, 'Streams of life giving water will pour from*

his side” (7:37-38). O Lord, as Your grace rains, as Your grace rains and we receive, O Lord, let us not be reservoirs of Your grace but channels of Your living water, channels of Your living water. Let us say amen to that in our hearts, Lord, that we are here to be used by You, to be channels of that life giving water. O let it rain Your grace. Come Holy Spirit, come Holy Spirit, come.

SCRIPTURE

I just keep on hearing from the Lord the words “Step into your inheritance.” And in the first part of **Ephesians (1:18-19)** where it talks about: *...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe.* Step into you inheritance.