

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Message Summary:

This week in our New Life series, Pastor Lee Wilson taught us how to share the story of our life as a testimony of the good work Jesus has done in us. We all have a story, and no one has a story quite like ours. It is a story with the unique fingerprint of God on it. Our stories connect, create change, bring clarity and have the power to convict. God believes in the power of the story so much, he put His story in a book, and we know that book is the Bible. Jesus Himself was a master storyteller, telling over 40 parables that he used to explain the deeper truths of God. Jesus showed us how to share stories with others with a purpose. You may not feel like you have a story to share, but that is just the devil trying to keep you quiet. Brené Brown once said, "When we deny our stories, they define us. When we own our stories, we get to write a brave new ending." The gospel story is alive in your story and that is your testimony. And your story is not just for you. God wants to share his love with the world through the power of your story of what He has done in your life. God is going to surprise the world with your story. Your story matters, and it could change someone's life. But it is up to you to share your story freely with others.

Key Scriptures:

- [2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV] 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- [2 Timothy 1:8-9 NKJV] 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called [us] with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began...
- [1 John 5:10-11 NLT] 10 All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. 11 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a testimony? What is the testimony that Christians share?
2. What is the unique story of what God has done in your life?
3. How can sharing your story impact someone else's life for Jesus?

Life Application:

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor Lee said, "Knowing, owning and living your story is God's master plan for every believer to change the world." So here is the question: Do you know your story, the story of how Jesus saved you and changed your life? And more importantly, are you brave enough to share your story with those who do not know Him? Matthew 28 commands us: "19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." We are commanded to share our story. Our story can be the gateway for someone to experience Jesus for themselves. So who are you going to share your testimony with this week? Who needs to hear your story?