

BE RICH

GIVE SERVE LOVE

Love: Living a Better Story

The invitation to follow Jesus does not merely carry with it the idea that human beings are saved *from* something— sin and the suffering it causes. Instead, followers of Jesus have always understood the invitation of Jesus as the process of being saved *to* something— getting involved in the redemptive work God is doing in the world. But the challenge in doing so is that it requires followers of Jesus to surrender their own will for God's, which asks us to pour ourselves out in love for the people around us.

Start Talking

1. Does your family have any traditions? What are they? Which do you like most?
2. Have you ever benefitted from somebody's decision to submit their own will and sacrifice something? What happened?

Looking Back

1. Did you find any opportunities to serve this past week? What benefits did you notice from engaging in service?
2. Jesus "took off" his status as the son of God in order to pour himself out in service for the world. Did you have opportunity to take off anything this week (time, money, control, the need to be right)? How did it go?
3. How did you respond when you found yourself tempted to serve out of a sense of arrogance or insecurity?

What About You?

1. In Sam's story, he recounted how he suffered a form of "survivor's guilt" after meeting his biological siblings who were not adopted like he was. This caused him to wrestle through his questions with God. What questions do you find yourself returning to over and over again?
2. One turning point in Sam's story occurred when he began to share his questions *about* God *with* God. When you find yourself facing challenges to your faith or worldview, do you share those doubts with God? Why or why not?
3. What do you think that the idea of "living a greater story" has to do with loving others?



How do these concepts intersect?

Look It Up

Read the Following Passages: Proverbs 3:5 – 6.

1. According to the writer of Proverbs, living a better story starts with submission. Why do you think the writer locates the key to good decision-making in the concept of submission?
2. If one key to living a better story begins with submission to the will of God, what all do we know about the character of God? What does He value? How should that affect our priorities?
3. Sam said he believes that action builds and reinforces faith. Why do you think that service, generosity, and love have the power to strengthen our faith in God?

Putting It All Together

1. Sam ended his message by outlining two particular kinds of people he wanted to speak to. The first category included those who find themselves in difficult situations, wondering if God is paying attention. The second concerned people who have made the decision to follow Jesus, but feel less than fulfilled. If you are being honest, do either of these describe how you feel now?
2. If you're wondering if God will show up in your difficult situation, what do you think "submission" might look like for you? How can you invite God to take control in order to write you into a better story?
3. For those of you who feel bored by faith, or simply less than fulfilled, where can you heed the invitation to put your faith into action through love and generosity? What problems do you feel compelled to help solve? Where can you give of yourself this week?
4. How can you remind yourself this week to share your questions *about* God *with* God?

