

Fourth Experience [tell]

GOAL – Tell your spiritual story in meaningful ways to others.

Go home to your own people. Tell them your story... – Jesus, Mark 5 (The Message)

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

1.

1. What are you thankful for this week?

2.

1. What has been challenging for you recently?

FOLLOW-UP

3.

3. Who did you tell about the things you experienced in the last section? How did it go?

YOUR PERSONAL STORY

The New Testament provides many examples of how one person's encounter with Jesus can inspire many others to follow him. Jesus wants his message told to every nation. He gave people instructions for how to spread this message to others—it is the greatest news the world has ever heard. However, some ways of sharing this wonderful news are better than others. How you bring the message is almost as important as the message itself.

Your personal story for how you are encountering Jesus is powerful. Rather than debating or arguing, sharing your personal story is one of the most effective ways to connect with and tell others about Jesus. In this chapter, you will write

out your personal story. You will be challenged to consider strategically, “Who does God want me to tell my story to?” So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes.² When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him.³ This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain.⁴ Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him.⁵ Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

⁶ When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him.⁷ With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!”⁸ For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

⁹ Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?”

And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.”¹⁰ Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.

¹¹ There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby.¹² “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.”

¹³ So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened.¹⁵ A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid.¹⁶ Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs.¹⁷ And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him.¹⁹ But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.”²⁰ So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

(Mark 5:1-20)

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4.

4. What do you see about Jesus in this story?

5.

4. What do you see about people?

6.

4. Who did Jesus want the man to tell his story to?

7.

4. How did his story affect the rest of his city?

GOING DEEPER

The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit.² These were his instructions to them: “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.³ Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves.⁴ Don’t take any money with you, nor a traveler’s bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don’t stop to greet anyone on the road.

⁵ “Whenever you enter someone’s home, first say, ‘May God’s peace be on this house.’⁶ If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you.⁷ Don’t move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay.

⁸ “If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you.⁹ Heal the sick, and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you now.’¹⁰ But if a town refuses to welcome you, go out into its streets and say,¹¹ ‘We wipe even the dust of your town from our feet to show that we have abandoned you to your fate. And know this—the Kingdom of God is near!’¹² I assure you, even wicked Sodom will be better off than such a town on judgment day. (Luke 10:1-12, NLT).

¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep

your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.(1 Peter 3:15-16, NLT).

8.

8. What insights about sharing the message of Jesus do you see from these verses?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Your personal story for how you are encountering Jesus is important. It doesn't need to be exaggerated or be like anyone else's. It just needs to be genuine.

Take 5-10 minutes to write your personal story with Jesus. Share briefly how you are encountering God at this stage of your journey. Here are some prompts to help you as you write:

- - What are a few characteristics of your life before you began encountering Jesus?
- - What did you discover about Jesus that inspired you to follow Him?
- - How do you see Jesus making a difference in your life now?

9.

9. Write your story here and then practice reading it out loud.

10.

9. Who do you think Jesus may want you to tell your story to?

GIVE IT AWAY

11.

11. Sharing with others what you have received from God is the greatest blessing. Who do you know who needs to hear what you learned from God in this section?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

To read more on this topic, you can look up:

Matthew 7:6

Matthew 10:5-20

Luke 9:1-6

John 4:1-42

John 9

Acts 22

Acts 26:1-23

II Peter 1:16-21