

Stories Week One_MA

STORIES THAT COLLIDE WITH GOD

Our lives are made of different stories. These stories reveal who we are and what we value. There are unique details to each person's story but 9 values that we share as LifeGaters. These values define who we are and ensure that we are always a place where God can write His story.

John 10:10 (NLT)

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Colossians 1:15-22 (NLT)

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

- **JESUS is the center**

Vs. 16b

Everything was created through Him and for Him.

Vs. 20-22

...and through Him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were His enemies, separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions.²² Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body.

- This section of scripture is actually a song of the early church of which the group that Paul was speaking to would have been familiar.
- It is not about us. It is all about Him.
- Position (Justification)

- Through Jesus, God bought us back. We are his when we believe.
 - He is forever on the throne and I'm forever His friend
 - When I know who He is, I know who I am
 - When we question the Lordship of Jesus then everything else become questionable
- Pursuit (Sanctification)
 - As a friend of God, I walk in a personal relationship with Him.

"To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love." ~A.W. Tozer

- This is where human propensity meets God propensity
 - Motives reveal pursuit
 - How can expect greatness in different areas of our lives when Jesus isn't the very center
 - Where is Jesus in this situation? How can He be glorified? What must happen for Him to be the center of my life, not just generally but specifically?
 - What song are you singing and what song are people hearing?
- **Our PASSION is contagious.**

Vs. 22b

As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Acts 4:13 (BSB)

When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and recognized that they had been with Jesus.

- Purpose-Driven
 - My relationship with God defines my worship not my gifts. They are simply a tool, not a definition. When it becomes about my gift then Jesus isn't the center.
 - Each person's purpose may be expressed in different ways but
 - Worship isn't just a song or centered around one day a week. A worshiper is who I am because I live in the presence of God.
 - Presence-Driven
 - You become what you behold
 - The right perspective is found in His presence.
 - We are carriers of what we hang out with. Courage, boldness, faith were the products of Peter's and John's passion because they had been with Jesus
- **We laugh hard, loud & OFTEN.**

1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)

...put [your] hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment"

Matthew 11:19 (PH)

"[Jesus] came, enjoying life."

Enjoy: take *delight or pleasure in*; possess *and benefit from*

- God wants you and I to enjoy life.
- Joy and laughter are on the long list of things that require intentionality

- Enjoy the Journey
 - Too many of us live for the destination
 - Laughter can and should define those who follow Jesus
 - Tension is created when we take ourselves too serious
 - Healthy jobs, marriages, friendships, and churches value laughter and joy

- Enjoy the Moment
 - Be present in the moment and lead the way with joy
 - When Jesus is your source, joy can be found in any circumstance. He is joy!

LIVE IT:

1. Begin with WORSHIP

2. Increase your awareness of His PRESENCE

3. LAUGH with someone everyday