

Tell Your Story Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon centers on the power of personal testimony and the call to share what God has done in our lives. Drawing from Psalm 105:1, Mark 5:1-20, and Acts 4:13-20, Jonathan challenges believers to move beyond keeping their faith private and to boldly proclaim the real, specific ways God has transformed them. Just as the demon-possessed man in Mark 5, who was delivered by Jesus, was sent home to tell his story; and just as Peter and John could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard, we are each called to share our encounters with Jesus with those around us who are still searching.

The sermon was accompanied by testimonies from youth camp leaders and students who shared how God moved powerfully throughout the week, breaking chains, restoring hearts, and drawing young people to salvation and rededication. The consistent theme across every testimony was that God works through ordinary people who have simply been with Jesus. Your story does not need to be polished or perfect. It just needs to be honest, specific, and shared with the one person in your life who needs to hear that transformation is possible.

Intro Prayer

Lord, thank you for bringing us together today. We come with open hearts, ready to hear what you want to speak to each of us. We know that you have done real and

powerful things in our lives, and we ask that you give us the courage and clarity to recognize those moments and share them freely. As we discuss Your word and Your work today, quiet the voices of doubt and fear that tell us our stories are not enough. Remind us that You use ordinary people who have simply been with you. Holy Spirit, move us right now. Open our ears to hear Your invitation and give us faith to respond. In Jesus name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you love to talk about so much that you could bring it up in almost any conversation?

Key Verses

- Psalm 105:1
- Mark 5:15
- Mark 5:19-20
- Acts 4:13
- Acts 4:19-20
- 1 Peter 3:15
- Psalm 107:2

Questions

- In Psalm 105:1, we are told to 'give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness' and to 'let the whole world know what He has done.' What do you think holds most people back from doing that in everyday life?
- The demon-possessed man in Mark 5 had a dramatic and very public transformation. But Jesus did not send him to seminary or tell Him to wait until He had all the

answers. He simply said, 'Go home to your family and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been' (Mark 5:19). What does that tell us about what God requires before we share our story?

- The man's testimony in Mark 5 amazed the entire region. Why do you think a personal story of life change can be more powerful than a well-reasoned argument for faith?

- Acts 4:13 says the council 'could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures' but also recognized them as 'men who had been with Jesus.' What does it look like practically to be someone who has 'been with Jesus' in your daily life?

- Peter and John said, 'We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard' (Acts 4:20). They used the word cannot, not should not or will not. Have you ever felt that kind of compulsion to share what God has done? What was that like?

- Jonathan challenged the group to get specific when sharing their testimony, saying that being specific is what breaks through to people. What is one specific thing God has done in your life that you could share with someone this week?

- Several people at youth camp shared that their testimony connected with someone else who was going through something similar. Has someone else's story of what God did in their life ever given you hope or changed your perspective? What made it land with you?

- Psalm 107:2 says, 'Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!' Is there someone in your life right now who is struggling, searching, or wondering if there is more? What is one step you could take this week to share your story with that person?

Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life who is struggling, searching, or starting to wonder if there is something more. Spend a few minutes writing down your answer to these three questions: What was my life like before Jesus? What did Jesus specifically do for me? How am I different because of it? Keep it simple and honest, aiming for something you could share in about two minutes. Then, when the opportunity comes, share it. You do not need perfect words. You just need to simply tell the truth about what you have seen God do.

Key Takeaways

- Your testimony is not just a personal memory. It is evidence that Jesus is real and still transforms lives today.
- You do not need special training, perfect words, or a fully processed story to share what God has done. Ordinary people who have been with Jesus carry extraordinary power.
- Being specific in your testimony is what makes it memorable and what breaks through to people who are still in darkness.
- Your relationship with Jesus is deeply personal, but it was never meant to stay private. Someone in your life needs to hear your story.
- Sharing your testimony is not about convincing anyone. It is about telling the truth of what you have seen and letting God handle the rest.

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for this time together and for the reminder that every one of us has a story worth telling. You have brought us out of darkness, broken chains in our lives, and shown us mercy we did not deserve. We do not want to keep that to ourselves. Give us boldness like Peter and John, who could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard. Give us the heart of the man in Mark 5, who went and told everyone what You had done for him. Bring to mind the one person in each of our lives who needs to hear that transformation is possible. And when that moment comes, Lord, give us the words. We trust that You will use our honest, imperfect stories to point others to You. Thank you for redeeming us and giving us something worth sharing. In the precious name of Jesus, amen.