

# 3Story<sup>®</sup> Way of Life

*A way of life that guides followers of Jesus to be good news while telling stories of the Good News.*



# Contents

|                                                                            |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Week 1 - Introduction to 3Story® .....</b>                              | <b>3</b>  |
| 3Story® Shifts in Evangelism:.....                                         | 3         |
| Considering Story: .....                                                   | 4         |
| Reflecting on Abiding, Discovering, and Inviting: .....                    | 5         |
| Abiding.....                                                               | 5         |
| Discovering.....                                                           | 5         |
| Inviting.....                                                              | 6         |
| <b>Week 2 - The Heart of 3Story®: Abiding.....</b>                         | <b>7</b>  |
| Reflecting on Abiding .....                                                | 7         |
| Reflections on John 15:1-11 (ESV) .....                                    | 8         |
| Practicing Presence .....                                                  | 9         |
| <b>Week 3 - Compelled by Christ's Love.....</b>                            | <b>10</b> |
| What Compels Us .....                                                      | 10        |
| Abiding Practices.....                                                     | 11        |
| <b>Week 4 - Discovering Stories .....</b>                                  | <b>12</b> |
| My Wishlist .....                                                          | 12        |
| Reflecting on Discovering .....                                            | 12        |
| Experiencing God's Story - John 4:1-42 (NIV) .....                         | 13        |
| Jesus Encounters People.....                                               | 13        |
| Tips for Discovering .....                                                 | 13        |
| HOLY CONVERSATIONS: PLANNING A 3STORY® APPOINTMENT .....                   | 14        |
| Be intentional in your attempts to discover Their Story by: .....          | 14        |
| 1. Giving grace freely.....                                                | 14        |
| 2. Becoming radically inclusive.....                                       | 14        |
| 3. Speaking only when the Spirit says speak. ....                          | 14        |
| <b>Week 5 - Inviting Conversations.....</b>                                | <b>15</b> |
| Reflecting on Inviting .....                                               | 15        |
| • Doorways .....                                                           | 15        |
| • As you consider someone on your Wishlist: .....                          | 16        |
| • As you consider inviting others, recall the following for yourself:..... | 16        |
| • Tie Points.....                                                          | 16        |
| • The 5 R's.....                                                           | 16        |

## Week 1 - Introduction to 3Story®

### 3Story® Shifts in Evangelism:

- 3Story® is **stories** more than **steps**. - Acts 17:27-28
- 3Story® is \_\_\_\_\_ more than **perfection**. - Philippians 3:9b and 12-13
- 3Story® is **them**, more than **you**. - 1 Thessalonians 2:8
- 3Story® is **questions** more than **answers**. - John 4:1-30
- 3Story® is **listening** more than \_\_\_\_\_. - Colossians 4:6
- 3Story® is **hope** more than **judgments**. - 1 Peter 3:15-16a
- 3Story® is \_\_\_\_\_ more than **a program**. - Romans 8:26-30
- 3Story® is **circular** more than **linear**. - John 4:1-30
- 3Story® is **love** more than **knowledge**. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 and 13
- 3Story® is **contributing** more than **controlling**. - 1 Peter 3:16

### Label the 3Story® Circles below:



## Considering Story:

- How aware am I of God's story?
- How is God's story alive and active in my current daily life?
- How do I think about my own story? Does it feel self-indulgent to think about my story, or does it feel like an invitation from God to study my story, becoming more familiar with how God has been shaping me?
- Think about the stories of those in my life who do not know Jesus. List as many names as you can of those you love and pray for who do not yet follow Jesus. We call this your "Wishlist."

Label the 3Story® Connections below:



## **Reflecting on Abiding, Discovering, and Inviting:**

### **Abiding**

#### **Think About This:**

- Do I choose to intentionally engage with Jesus throughout my days, maintaining a humble posture and building awareness of God loving and leading me?
- When I do, what does it look like?
- What more might Jesus be inviting me to?
- What does life look like when I don't intentionally engage with Jesus throughout my days?

### **Discovering**

#### **Think About This:**

- Which one is more natural to me? Telling other people about my story and God's story? Or learning how another person sees the world and encounters God?
- When has someone listened well to me? What did that feel like? What does the opposite feel like?
- What have I discovered about others by asking questions and listening well?
- "People listen to people who listen." Agree or disagree? How has this been represented in my life?

## **Inviting**

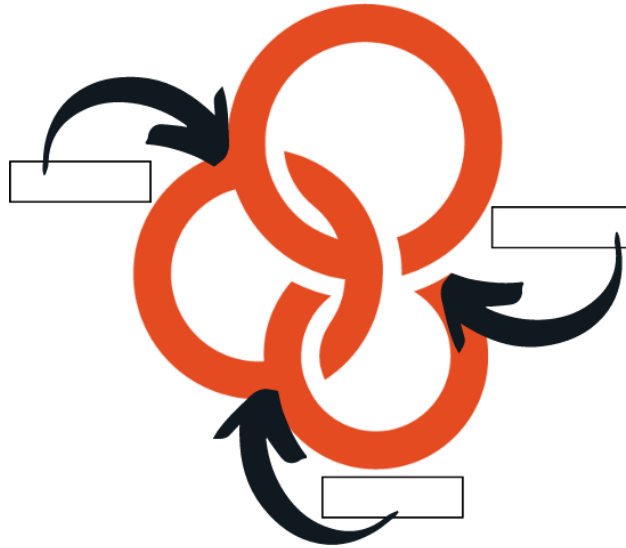
### **Think About This:**

- Consider the third circle “Their story.” In your life, what names do you place in that circle? As you consider their stories, how is Jesus inviting them toward Himself?

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## Week 2 - The Heart of 3Story®: Abiding

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### Reflecting on Abiding

- Thinking through Scripture, what are examples of God inviting people to abide with Him?
- How would you describe your current connectivity (abiding) with God's story? Consider the circles—what's the overlap look like between you and God?
- How has God's word been alive in your whole life? How has His word been alive in the past 24 hours?

## Video Notes & Reflections

- What does abiding look like?
- What abiding practice might be helpful to you?

## Reflections on John 15:1-11 (ESV)

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.



- Consider the disciples as they listened to Jesus. What seems most important to him?
- Imagine Jesus turns his attention to you as you consider his teaching. What does He want you to know? What does He invite you to do?

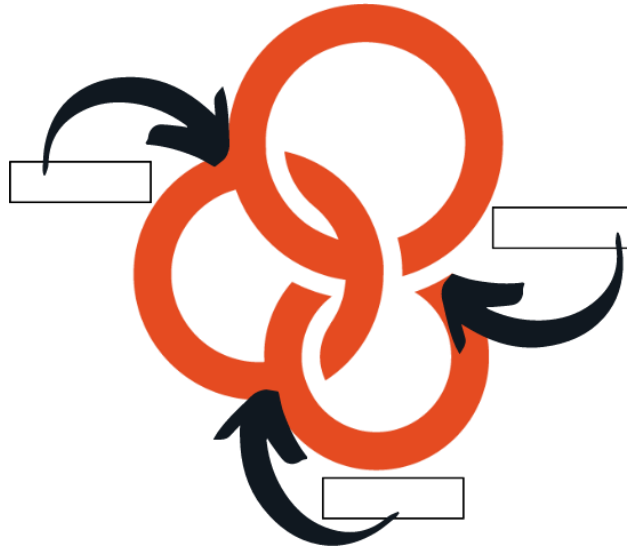
## **Practicing Presence**

- To begin, set a timer for 5 minutes (longer if this is a familiar practice).
- Sit quietly without music, or journal, or any distractions.
- Notice Jesus with you.
- He sees you. He sees all that is going on in your mind and your life.
- He hears you. He hears the deeper cries of your soul.
- Take a couple of slow, deep breaths, and offer yourself (mind, soul, and strength) to God.
- Just sit with Jesus, offering Him your attention as you would to someone you love.

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## **Week 3 - Compelled by Christ's Love**

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*For Christ's love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died and was raised again.*

*- 2 Cor. 5:14-15 (NIV)*

### **What Compels Us**

- What seems most compelling in your life? In other words, what's on your mind most of the time? What fuels your emotions most of the time? Try to describe the energy that drives you.

*If I want my lost friends to meet Jesus, my first, best step is always to move closer to Him myself.*

## **Abiding Practices**

- **Silence and Solitude**
- **Scripture Study**
- **Sabbath Rest**
- **Surrender**

## **Jar of Rocks**

- What are the rocks in your jar? Is there anything God invites you to surrender?

## **Suggested Resources**

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Adele Calhoun     | Invitations from God               |
| Ruth Haley Barton | Invitation to Silence and Solitude |
| Mark Buchanan     | The Rest of God                    |
| A.J. Swoboda      | Subversive Sabbath                 |

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## Week 4 - Discovering Stories

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### My Wishlist

### Reflecting on Discovering

Two words are key to discovering stories, and really, they sum up 3Story®. Those words are: \_\_and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Experiencing God's Story - John 4:1-42 (NIV)

- What are you noticing about Jesus?
- What are you feeling?
- What questions come to your mind?
- How is this encounter impacting you? What is the result of the interaction for you (in this people group)?
- What do we learn about loving people in this encounter Jesus has with the woman?

## Jesus Encounters People

- Jesus meets them where they are.
- Jesus asks discovering questions.
- Jesus tailors the telling of God's Story to the individual and the situation.
- Jesus speaks the truth in love.
- Jesus gives hope (Living Water).

## Tips for Discovering

- Be \_\_\_\_\_
- Be \_\_\_\_\_
- Be \_\_\_\_\_
- Be a \_\_\_\_\_

How might you apply these 4 tips with those on your Wishlist?

## Look again at your Wishlist:

- What have you learned about them by listening?
- What is something Jesus loves about this person?
- How well would they say that you have listened?
- What would you like to learn about them still?
- What is one thing you can do this week that will convey that you love them and will help you discover more of their story?

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## **HOLY CONVERSATIONS: PLANNING A 3STORY® APPOINTMENT**

Choose a not-yet-following-Christ friend with whom you would like to connect more intentionally—someone from your Wishlist is ideal.

Find four opportunities in the next six weeks to connect stories with that person. For example, over coffee, lunch, a game, whatever enables your friend to feel comfortable. Consider some active meetings as well as sit-down conversations (a pick-up basketball or football game, taking the bus to a park, a serving project like delivering food to a pantry). At some point in your time together, you will seek to discover more of their story, and perhaps share parts of your story.

Do not try to convert your friend. Simply be real and create a transparent, authentic storytelling environment for yourself and your friend. Authenticity in storytelling, listening, and noticing God is our goal. Be honest. Listen to the Holy Spirit as you enter into these holy conversations and see how God is at work. You'll be surprised at the ways He will invite you into the process when you are intentional about connecting with people.

### **Be intentional in your attempts to discover Their Story by:**

#### **1. Giving grace freely.**

- Use the “30-second” rule. Listen, wait, and hear the other person 30 seconds longer than is normal for you. This helps both of you get familiar with quiet space in conversation.
- Repeat the person’s name (naturally) in the course of conversations, as though it were a holy expression of God’s grace and love for them.
- Slow down your mind, practice being fully present with your friend.

#### **2. Becoming radically inclusive.**

- Expand the capacity of your heart to love – do not allow yourself the indulgence of negatively judging anything about your friend. So, when you hear something that rubs you the wrong way, bracket it in your mind, offer it to Jesus, and keep listening.
- Keep your focus outward: toward God first and then toward your friend. If you can, imagine God in the space with you, and let your eyes wander to Him occasionally to remind yourself He is with you; you are with Him.

#### **3. Speak only when the Spirit says to speak.**

- Discover the sound of His voice by listening more than talking.
- Discover common ground that you have with your friend through listening attentively.
- Build rapport through authenticity – share (disclose) the real you but stay brief.
- Catch the Spirit’s vision of who and what your friend could become with Christ rather than what they appear to be without Him. This is done through listening, waiting, and expectant prayer.

## Week 5 - Inviting Conversations

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### Recap

- When we **abide** in Christ, we love in authentic ways. This love looks like a listening posture.
- We are less worried about making a point and more interested in helping friends **discover** how God is drawing them close.
- The word that describes the connecting point between Their Story and God's is **invite**. We are inviting friends to discover, reflect, and respond to our friend Jesus.

### Reflecting on Inviting

- **Doorways** are moments, experiences, and daily routines where we notice Jesus moving toward us.

- **As you consider someone on your Wishlist:**
  - What doorway might Jesus use to enter?
  - How might Jesus want you to partner with Him?
  - What will you do next?
- **As you consider inviting others, recall the following for yourself:**
  - What was your process of discovering God?
  - What important truths about God did you embrace?
  - What parts of God's story were challenging to embrace?
- **Tie Points** are connections between a Doorway and a truth about Jesus.
  - What tie points (Jesus stories are a good place to start) might be relevant to the Doorways you've noticed in your friend's story?
- **The 5 R's**
  - God loves us and created us for **Relationship** with Him.  
- Romans 5:7-8
  - We **Resist** relationship with God.  
- Romans 3:23
  - Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose to **Restore** our intended relationship with God.  
- John 3:16-17
  - Our positive **Response** to Jesus begins our relationship with God.  
- John 1:12
  - Jesus promises he will **Remain** with us through the Holy Spirit.  
- John 14:15-17
- How has the Holy Spirit already nudged you/set you up to invite those on the Wishlist? What next step are you being invited to take?

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