

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE POWER OF YOUR STORY

Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9, Luke 19:1-10

Pastor Miles McPherson – 3/15/15

This week, Pastor Miles gave the second message in this most important and powerful series about sharing our story and reaching out to those who need to hear the gospel. Last week's message provided the beginning part of telling *My Story*, following an easy to use format. In the format, we start by saying "I was _____" and fill in blanks describing our life before having a relationship with Jesus. This message prepared us to share the second part of the format starting with "Then Jesus _____" where we then describe how we met Jesus.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Who has ever posted their picture or even a "selfie" on social media or online? Did you get any comments or compliments? What was your reaction from when receiving positive or negative feedback?
2. If we know sharing our testimony is POWERFUL and can bless someone else, why is it hard to share our story on video using the Gospel Central APP?
3. People who are lost in the world need encouragement, fellowship and hope. **The most important thing you can do this week** is to share your story with someone who needs to hear the Gospel.

STUDY QUESTIONS

READ: Matthew 4:18-22 The four all *immediately* left their occupations, and accepted the invitation to follow Jesus.

1. If it was certain that, after hearing your story, someone would accept Jesus' invitation into a relationship immediately, what would make us uncomfortable or hesitant to share with:
 - a. A family member?
 - b. A friend?
 - c. A random stranger at a bus stop?
2. Describe your experience the moment you made the decision to accept the invitation and follow Jesus for the first time or get back on track with Him.



READ: Matthew 9:9-10

3. After Matthew accepted Jesus, who came to Matthew's house to also be with Jesus? What does that say about someone who *used* to be a great sinner?

4. In the skit onstage, the woman with Jesus now in her life, made a connection with the stranger drinking from a bottle hidden in a paper bag. She told him that *she too used to* "carry her best friend around in a little bag". Share how your past helped make a connection with someone going through similar circumstance.

a. If God has a divine plan, are there really 'coincidences'?

b. How would you respond to someone like the stranger who shared: All my life I was told "You'll never amount to anything" and "Stop taking up space in the world".

5. Pastor Miles said at the service we would do something different today; the congregation would be doing Altar Call. For those at church what was it like sharing your story, following the format and inviting someone next to you to have a relationship with Jesus?

a. What would be different between the Sunday experience in church and inviting someone into a relationship with Christ during the week?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

1. We all know at least one person who is not saved. Form up into groups of 3-4 and pray for each one of those people.
2. Pair off and practice sharing your story in preparation for inviting someone to join into a relationship with Christ.

TAKE IT HOME!

1. This week, look for opportunities to pray for someone. It can be as simple as:
Dear Lord, thank you for _____ (name)
Please bless _____ (name)
In Jesus Name, Amen
2. What are some reasons that keep us from having an increased emphasis or from spending more time developing our relationship with Jesus?

