**Your Life Story**

Don’t you just love a good story? And a good storyteller! The origins of storytelling are as old as Adam and Eve. But poor, deprived Adam – he couldn’t do mother-in-law jokes….or fabricate tall tales about his big sister. But he got a lot of mileage telling his kids how their mom had eaten him out of house and home.

Historians say one of our earliest records of storytelling is the Westcar Papyrus from Egypt written 16 to 18 centuries before Jesus came to earth. The Old Testament book of Job, a riveting account of a beleaguered world figure, is thought to have been written by Moses some 2,000 years before Christ.

# The Saul-Paul Extreme Make-Over Story

One of the Bible’s most dramatic stories is about a Jewish intellectual, born as Saul, a Roman citizen in Tarsus, north of Jerusalem. After establishing himself as a religious hitman of sorts, carrying official synagogue credentials, he does a 180 and becomes one of Jesus’ leading voices for the Christian faith.

This irks his former synagogue pals who have him arrested and brought before Gov. Felix, his successor Festus and then King Agrippa. **Let’s read this remarkable story in Acts 25:13 to 26:32 (p. 308, MSG).**

DISCUSS: What additional information might have convinced King Agrippa to, as an act of faith, place his life in Christ’s hands?

Jesus is spoken of as “the Word” (John 1:1-4). God Himself is the master Storyteller. He wants to write your name in His Book of Life, and to have His name written, for all to see, on your heart. **Let’s see that in 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 (p. 390, MSG).**

# “Come To Jesus”

#### Lyrics By Chris Rice

# Weak and wounded sinner, lost and left to die

# O, raise your head, for Love is passing by.

**Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus**

**Come to Jesus and live.**

**Now your burden's lifted, and carried far away**

**And precious blood has washed away the stain. So**

**Sing to Jesus, Sing to Jesus**

**Sing to Jesus and live.**

**And like a newborn baby, don't be afraid to crawl**

**And remember when you walk**

**Sometimes we fall. So**

**Fall on Jesus, Fall on Jesus**

**Fall on Jesus and live.**

**Sometimes the way is lonely, and steep and filled with pain.**

**So if your sky is dark and pours the rain, then**

**Cry to Jesus, Cry to Jesus**

**Cry to Jesus and live.**

**O, and when the Love spills over, and music fills the night.**

**And when you can't contain your joy inside, then**

**Dance for Jesus, Dance for Jesus**

**Dance for Jesus and live.**

**And with your final heartbeat, kiss the world goodbye.**

**Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side, and**

**Fly to Jesus, Fly to Jesus**

**Fly to Jesus and live**

**Fly to Jesus, Fly to Jesus**

**Fly to Jesus and live.**

God has written you into His great love story. If you’d like to pursue

this, let’s do lunch. Meanwhile, here are some next steps to ponder.

**HOW TO BE PART OF HIS STORY:**

• “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

• “We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. This is true for all who believe, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. … God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus” (Romans 3:22-26).

• “For by grace you have been saved, through faith--not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

• “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved” (Romans 10:9-10).

• “Whoever believes in the Son of God inwardly confirms God's testimony. Whoever refuses to believe in effect calls God a liar, refusing to believe God's own testimony regarding his Son. This is the testimony in essence: God gave us eternal life; the life is in his Son. So, whoever has the Son, has life; whoever rejects the Son, rejects life. My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion” (1 John 5:10-13).

His Deal

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