

# "What dreams may come. . . ."

**God's Story. . . .**

**My Story. . . .**

**Our story. . . .**

Splicing together God's story and the stories of our own spiritual journeys and then replaying them for friends is one of the **great** opportunities and responsibilities of growing as vital and robust disciples of Jesus. He said himself:

*"Stand up for me among the people you meet and the Son of Man will stand up for you before all God's angels." (Luke 12:8, The Message)*

Brand new disciples intuitively get how important it is. It is hard to forget the woman at the well (John 4) who, after meeting Jesus, made a fast trip to her friends and said, *"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did...Could this be the Messiah?" (NIV)* Telling our stories often and well anchors hope in our heart and sends spiritual adrenaline pumping through our veins. *There's just nothing like it to make our faith come alive!*

But getting from the ideal to the real doesn't come easily. It scares us! Thoughts like *'I don't know enough yet'* or *'I'll fumble the words'* or *'Oh, I could never do that in public'* scare us silent before we even start. What if it was possible to actually get comfortable telling our stories? And maybe even get some practice in the company of safe friends along the way? And what if God could actually use **me**, when I'm prepared, to touch the life of my friend or my sister or my boss? ***Deep down, isn't that what we all hunger for?***

So during this season of our preparation for Easter (look up "**Lent**" on the internet) we want to put a three-part invitation before you:

1. **Write** out your 2-3 minute account of how God found you when you first came to faith in Jesus or how God has actually been showing up and connecting with the dreams of your life more recently. *(The simple worksheet on the other side is a great starting point).*
2. **Tell** your story:
  - *On video (We'll put in on the website or project it during a service.)*
  - *On paper and then share it during a service/small group/Bible study or retreat. Don't worry...we'll be careful with anonymity when necessary!*
  - *On a photo collage we can hang around the church*
3. **Pray** that God would open doors for you to share your story at least a few times between now and the end of the year. *And if you really want to be stretched in your prayers, ask God to give you the thrilling opportunity to get to lead someone to faith in Jesus within the year.*

Start Here!

Commit this Easter Preparation to prayer:

1. That what you will say will honor Him.
2. That it would be authentic.
3. That it might make the story of Christ clear and attractive (Titus 2.1)

I don't really feel like I have a clear decisional moment when I gave my life to Christ **OR** my story of coming to faith is not as powerful as what has been going on in my life more recently.

I have a clear moment when I gave my life to Jesus Christ and I can see His patterns or His hand at work in my life at some key points since then (maybe even when I was not tracking with Him.)

Different possible guiding approaches...leverage one of these or craft a unique one of your own!

What specific dreams, needs, or hungers has Christ met in your life?

In what specific ways or experiences have you seen Jesus meet you at your point(s) of need (be specific)?

What are some of your hopes about how He will work with you in the future?

Is there a guiding theme, illustration, or verse that could introduce or tie everything together?

Briefly refer to significant early spiritual events or moments in your life that may have shaped you.

Share different roads that you took or how you got lost in deep weeds.

How did God pursue you? How did you pursue God? Was there a person(s) involved?

How has your life changed as a result? How do you see God working?

Describe your life prior to accepting Christ. What habits, ways of thinking or values were driving you?

What were the events or the people involved in your coming to faith? How did God pursue you?

Jesus called people to "count the cost" before following him. What did that mean for you?

How has God shaped your life since then?

When you reflect on the purpose for your life or your life's impact, what ideas or themes move you most?

Describe the journey by which you came to place your life, identity & hope in Jesus Christ.

How has that relationship shaped your life's purpose and direction? Share events.

How have you seen God work in/through your life lately?