

Sharing Your Life Story

This lesson will help you learn to share your personal history and how significant events in your life have shaped you.

Jesus's Disciples Were Friends

John 15:15 (NIV)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Jesus gave us the model of becoming _____ with His disciples.

It is important in discipleship to become friends and one of the clearest way to become friends is understanding each other's stories. In discipleship we begin the relationship by understanding each other's stories.

What We Gain From Sharing

The Bible always teaches us that it is more blessed to give than receive. It is a spiritual principle that, when we share our faith we actually grow in the faith God has given us. Consider the following verse:

Philemon 1:6 (ESV)

and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.

When you learn to share your story of faith you begin to have a full knowledge of the good things you have in Christ.

A person's story is perhaps one of the most powerful tools they have in telling others about Christ.

How To Share Your Story

We have explored how discipleship is more than just a study but a relationship that grows into friendship. A big aspect of friendship is knowing the story of another person. Here is how to facilitate a meeting where you learn someone's life story:

1. Introduce the topic
2. Listen and Ask basic questions
3. Share your own story
4. Pray together

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Step 1: Introducing the Topic

Say something like this:

"I would like to hear your life story and I want to share mine with you so we can start getting to know each other."

If your meeting has time constraints it may be wise to share how long you have to hear one another's stories.

Step 2: Listen and Ask Basic Questions

You will want to listen to one another as the story is shared.

Below are basic follow-up questions that you can ask someone about their story. They are intended for a point of reference. Do not feel that you have to cover every question.

- **Early Life:** Tell me about your childhood. (some people will begin to talk with ease and disclose many things about their lives. Others will need you to use more guiding questions)
Where were you born?
- **Family:** What are you parents like? Do you have siblings? What did you parents do for a living?
- **Foundations:** What were some positive things that happened in your childhood? What were some negative experiences? What were your teenage years like?
- **Schooling:** Where did you attend school? What did you excel in? What was hard for you?
- **Faith Journey:** Where are you on your faith journey? When did you first hear about Jesus? How did you hear the gospel? Who prayed with you to commit your life to Jesus?
- **Victories:** How did your life change when you came to know Jesus? What have been the biggest victories of your Christian life? What have been the biggest challenges?
- **Life Today:** Tell me about your life today. What are you doing now vocationally or school or other?
- **The Future:** Are there any dreams you have? Are there any words God has spoken to you about the future or any calling that He has put on your life?
- **Discipleship:** What ways do you hope to grow as we meet in discipleship?

Step 3: Share Your Own Story

After hearing their story it is time for you to share your own story. Keep it short. But be vulnerable. Remember the vulnerability you model in discipleship will translate to the depth of openness people feel that they can be with you.

Step 4: Prayer Together

After both of you have shared your story. Spend a couple of moments praying that God will do something great in your lives through your discipleship relationship.