



First Presbyterian Church of Orlando

HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY

We are hardwired for *story*. Not only is it how we want to see the world, but it is how we go about explaining to others who we are. Stories captivate our imaginations, draw us in, convict our hearts, enliven our souls, move us to tears, fill our hearts with compassion, boil our blood in anger, fill our mouths with cries for justice, fill our eyes with visions of beauty. The best stories are the ones that we want to be true and are after all. The Christian story is this sort of story. A meaningful beginning, a calamitous fall, an unlikely redemption, and a cosmic restoration.

The Christian story is both cosmic and individual. Our God is as unique in his design of his creatures as he is in his ways of wooing our hearts to his glory and grace. And thus our personal stories are one of the best ways for us to proclaim the goodness of God to the world around us.

All of our stories are shaped by and fit within God's grand narrative. God's story unfolds in four distinct movements: CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, RESTORATION. Likewise, God's redemption of our unique story follows this same pattern. The questions below will help you share your story within this framework. For this exercise, you need to be able to share the 15-20 minute version of your story, which should leave time for Q&A and prayer.

Here are some questions to ask as you craft your story.

CREATION - 1

- Where were you born? What was your family like? Where did your story begin?
- What shaped your vision of the good life, hopes, and dreams?
- Who or what most shaped the way you viewed your identity/value?

FALL - 2

- In what unique and specific ways, has your life been affected by sin, suffering, and sorrow?
- What did you most live for before you came to Christ? What sins and idols dominated your life? How did God bring you to the end of yourself and to a posture of dependence on him?

REDEMPTION - 3

- Who loved you into the kingdom? How did you hear the gospel (who, where, when)? What did they proclaim to you?
- How has Jesus' life, death in your place, and resurrection reconciled you to God and set you free to live the way God intends?
- How did Jesus begin to break the power of sin in your life (freedom from bondage)?
- How has Jesus changed your heart and not just you changing your behavior?



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RESTORATION - 4

- What idols of the heart is God saving you from right now that you can share (i.e. power, control, approval, comfort)?
- How has God used trials and suffering to shape you, encourage you and make the gospel come alive?
- Where do you see Jesus making you new? How is he giving you a new heart, a new head and new hands?
- What is your future hope for yourself and your story?

Evaluation Questions:

- Does my story communicate the past and present saving work of Christ?
- Does my story honestly portray my heart, sin, and weaknesses?
- Does my story appropriately showcase the goodness, grace, and glory of Jesus in my life?
- Does my story invite others into my life?
- Does my story reveal my present need for the power of the Spirit & my future hope in the renewing work of God?