

MOVING FORWARD: STATE OF THE CHURCH 2020
WEEK TWO: YOUR STORY, HIS GLORY

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study

For Starters: What is the story of your salvation? What other stories do you have of when God worked in your life? Have you ever shared these stories with someone else?

The Basics: Read Matthew 5:14–16. Do you believe Jesus when He says *you* are the light of the world? How is the light to be used? How does this impact you?

Quick-Fire Round: Read Matthew 28:19–20. Is the language in this passage active or passive? What does it mean for sharing the stories of how God is working in your life?

- Read 1 Peter 3:13–15. What does it mean “to give an account of the hope that is in you”? When does Peter tell us we should do this?
- Read Acts 22:1–21. How did Paul defend himself to the Jews?
- Read John 4:1–42, focusing on verses 39–42. What is the reason given for why “many believed in Him” in verse 39? Do you think she said more than just “He told me all the things that I have done”? If so, what do you think she told them?
- Remembering the stories of the “Man Born Blind,” the “Woman Who Anointed Jesus’ Feet,” and “Lazarus,” what indication is there that they knew what God was doing?
- Why doesn’t God tell us ahead of time the story He has planned for us?
- Read Romans 8:28. Do you believe what it says about God in this passage? How does that apply to the story we may be in the middle of living out?
- What are some ideas for helping you tell the story of the work of God in your life?
- Knowing that God will use your story to bring Him glory, lead others to Christ, and to grow in Christ, how can this help you through the difficult times in your story? Are there any practices you can put in place to help?

Challenge: In addition to your story of salvation, identify at least one other story of when God worked in your life. Practice sharing these stories with the focus on the hope you have in God. Share these stories with at least one other person who is not already familiar with your story. For a bigger challenge, pray and look for an opportunity to share this with someone who is not a Christian.

Memorize: 1 Peter 3:14–16

Prayer: Lord, thank you for saving me and intervening in my life to give me hope. Give me the courage and faith to be the light to the world that you have made me to be. Open my eyes to the opportunities you have placed in front of me to share my stories, then give me the boldness to take the step of sharing them. Help me to trust that you will give me the words to speak and the confidence to know that YOU are doing the work in those who hear my stories, not me. Thank you for the results and blessings that will come. Amen.