

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

12. Have you ever thought of your journey of faith as a story?
What part of your story might God use to share the gospel with someone. What might be the common ground with their experience?

13. Have you ever done this (share a part of your story) before?
What was it like?

Prayer Requests

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October 2, 2016

Sermon Notes

God's Promise for You:

Empowered by the Promise

Acts 2:13-40

Three Practices that will P _____ you to S _____
God's Story

1. Be A _____

- To the Spirit's A _____
- To our C _____ B _____
- To a C _____ with Jesus' life and message

2. Be Ready

- To I _____ to Jesus
- To defend the R _____
- To D _____ our relationship to Jesus
- To explain their 'N _____ S _____' of faith

3. Be P _____

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

October 2, 2016

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. What are the elements of a great story? What do you look for as you read a book or watch a movie?
2. How is the story of the gospel working itself out in your life right now?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ ACTS 26:1-11

3. This was not a trial, and no decision about Paul's fate could be made. Given that Paul was not under trial, then why do you think he considered himself "fortunate" (v. 2)?
4. List the elements of the "before" part in Paul's story. What does this tell us about who was he before he came face to face with Jesus? What does this tell us about God's grace and power?
5. Why do you think Paul emphasized his Jewish upbringing and earlier life practices with Agrippa? Why might it be important that we do something similar when we share our stories of God at work in our lives?

READ ACTS 26:12-19

6. Why did Paul not include details like his blindness or his encounter with Annanias in this telling of his story? In what ways might those differences be significant to Paul's immediate audience? When you share your story with others, how do those accounts vary?

7. In a general sense, what key elements of every person's conversion story do you see in Paul's account here? When we are sharing the story of God's grace in our lives, what elements should we be sure to include? Explain.

READ ACTS 26:20-23

8. List the "after I met Jesus" part of Paul's testimony. What do we learn about God and Paul's relationship with Him from this part of Paul's testimony?

9. How is Paul's story in these verses a helpful model for you as you grow in your ability to share your own story? Why is it more important to connect our story with others' common beliefs and experiences? When does every believer have an incredible story?

READ ACTS 26:24-32

10. Why did Festus think Paul was out of his mind (v. 24)? What part of your belief in the simple gospel message do people find unbelievable and why?

11. What does Agrippa's reply to Paul in verse 28 teach us about sharing our story? What is our responsibility? What is not our responsibility?