

Talk It Over 18 June

Begin with prayer: Ask God to prepare you to share your Jesus story with others.

Icebreaker: Name the best question you have ever been asked. How and why did you answer it...if you did?

Scripture:

2 I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you: I will make your name great, and you will be blessed...3 and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

Observation:

In these verses God made an amazing promise to Abraham. If you could ask Abraham one question, what would it be? If you could tell him one thing, what would you say?

Name some simple questions that can invite another person to share their story with you.

Respond to the statement: Once you know people's story, it gives you context to understand them. Why is this important?

Scripture:

And to provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:3 (NIV)

Observation:

Have you ever seen God give someone “beauty for ashes” or trade “a spirit of despair for a garment of praise”? How does knowing that God can do these things influence your life?

Why is it important to include the wins and the wounds when we tell others about our story with Jesus?

Scripture:

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Challenge: *People are not projects*—What are some practical ways we can insure that we don't lose sight of why we BLESS others? Which of these ideas would you be most likely to put into practice?

End with prayer: Ask God to give you gentleness and respect as you share your Jesus story with others.