# | TAKE HOME |

#### **MESSAGE:** SHARING MY STORY // 8.18.19 **SPEAKER:** AL SCHAAP

# **GETTING STARTED**

- 1. What is one of your favorite life experiences you like to share? Why do you like to share it?
- 2. Do you naturally default to a story or to factual information? Why? What is it about a story that seems to keep people engaged?
- 3. Is there anything in this week's message that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

# **DIGGING DEEPER**

- 1. Share examples in life where someone's personal experience/story gave them credibility when they spoke.
- 2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-17. What is Paul saying when he tells us to "always be prepared"? How is our story connected to sharing the gospel?
- 3. What does Paul say about suffering? In light of this 1 Peter 3 passage, what do you say to the person who thinks Christianity and prosperity always go hand-in-hand? How does this help in sharing our stories?
- 4. Imagine a movie producer wanted to make your story into a movie. What word or phrase might you suggest as a title to that movie?
- 5. If someone asked you to explain how you know Christ is real, what story in your own life would you use to help explain that?
- 6. Why is the behavior and character described by Paul important in the message our story shares about the gospel? What would our story say without those qualities?

# TAKE AWAY

- 1. Reflect on your life experiences. Who could be encouraged by hearing your story? Ask God to show you someone to share your story with.
- 2. How can people be praying for you this week?

RightNow Media Resources (see bulletin for sign up instructions)

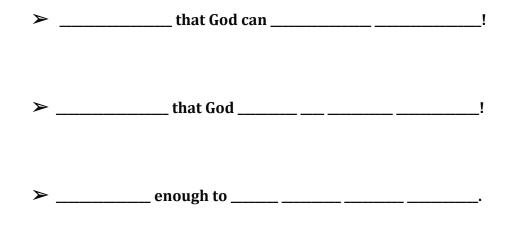
- The Value of Our Story (Customizable Training) Jeremy Cowart
- A Life Rewritten: Marissa's Story
- Your Struggle, God's Story (2015 IF Gathering) Rebekah Lyons

# Video messages available online at gatewaymerced.org/messages

Series: Sharing My Story Main Scriptures: 2 Kings 6:24-7:20 (pp. 365 f.); 1 Peter 3:15-16

#### 2 Kings 6:24-7:20

1 Peter 3:15-16



# **My Story**

# Additional Notes:

# 1. My life before following Christ Jesus

Possible items: where I was spiritually before receiving Jesus, how that affected my thoughts about God/attitudes/feelings/ relationships, what got me thinking about God

## 2. How I met Christ Jesus

Possible items: how I came to understand what He has done for me, when I really believed in Him for myself, what I did to invite Him to be in my life and take it over

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# **3. My life since I began following Christ Jesus** Possible items: some ways God has been transforming my life since He has taken over, some ways I now have hope in Christ, things He's been doing currently in me

4. Any other comments I feel God prompting me to make in the particular situation that might relate my story to the person with whom He has me speaking

Cf. 1 Timothy 1:16

Key: believe, change lives; recognize, wants to use you; care, get your story ready

Especially helpful resources: "Mastering The Old Testament: 1, 2 Kings", Russell Dilday; "the difference maker – Using Your Everyday Life for Eternal Impact", Nelson Searcy with Jennifer Dykes Henson