

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?

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

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?

1 Peter 3:15-16

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?

➤ _____ that God can _____!

➤ _____ that God _____!

➤ _____ enough to _____.

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

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

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