



The Other Six | Share Stories: Sowing Good News; Witness to Wonder | Week 4 | September 30, 2018

1 Peter 3:15-16, Romans 10:14-15, Colossians 4:5-6, Acts 1:8

Opening: We each live a story, a special story, an important story. But those stories all are part of a larger story. Living our story in the context of God's story explains why life is "wonderful good news", a composite sermon title from our two speakers this week.

Discussion: Pastor Tracey Bianchi and Pastor Rick Glyman preached the fourth message of this series. Quotes are noted as used.

Context: Our "field" (week 1) is our relevant sphere of influence where we are called to bring our individual gifts and talents (week 2) in specific ways. We looked at children (week 3) but this week is broader. Everyone in our field, for that matter everyone on our planet, KNOWS a story, HAS a story and LIVES that story within God's overarching story for humanity. Today we look at God's "model of engagement" through story with our field.

The Role of "STORY" in life

Tracey states no literary form "has the power to identify, unite or explain" than a story.

Use a Jesus parable to **explain** the value He places on individual persons (hint: sheep). How could story help to **unite**? Can you give an example?

Tracey asks "Have you ever stopped to consider ... the stories that surround you?"

Do you know how many kids the retired guy down the block has? You know the guy in the mailroom, but do you know his wife's name? Talk about why we do or do not know the stories that surround us.

Two Stories:

- God's story: Creation (man and Universe), Man's Sin, Man's Redemption, Restoration
- Our story, and all other stories exist within God's story

Tracey states that "our stories exist for a reason, to glorify and honor God".

How does God's story intersect with your story? How does that differ from your resume? We are living through the "redemption" chapter of God's story and He is reconciling our story with His; how does that impact you each day?

Our Commission

Rick offered 1 Peter 3:15 as guidance for our preparation:

- Always be prepared; To answer anyone who asks; About the HOPE you have
- Do it with gentleness and respect

Have you experienced being asked about your hope? Tell that story to the group. Why are such conversations so rare? How can we encourage this kind of conversation with our unbelieving friends?



Our Motivation

Rick cited two passages that speak to attitude: Romans 10:14-15 & Colossians 4:5-6.

“For the sake of others” is a Christ Church banner phrase for “Take Root”. How do these scriptures speak to “for the sake of others”? How does the idea of story help us here?

Rehearsing your Story

Rick stated “Christians must go through the mental and spiritual effort of thinking out their faith, so that they can explain what they believe and why”. This must be given with gentleness and with reverence.

Have you rehearsed? What is your biggest stumbling block? Imagine your story to the check-out clerk at the grocery. Imagine your story to your boss. Talk about any feelings that came up in that process.

Evangelism

Tracey said: “but at the core, to share the story of God and the story of us is to be an evangelist.”

Rick quoted Richard Halverson: “Evangelism is not salesmanship. It is not urging people, pressing them, coercing them, overwhelming them, or subduing them. Evangelism is telling a message (*story*). Evangelism is reporting good news.”

What is your response to the word “Evangelism”? Where does that response come from? Can you cite an incident or an experience that contributed to your response? What have you learned in this discussion that alters your view?

Practice of the Week: Map your Story—reflecting on God’s presence in your life

Rick outlined five steps to this process: early church background and impact, what caused you to begin to believe in Christ, what motivated you to receive Christ, how and when did that happen, and how has your life changed as a result. These are not rigorous but they are a good start. This week spend time each day considering, writing, refining and maybe even practicing saying this to someone close to you.

Family Formation: Story as a “thing”

Spend time at dinner talking about stories of what happened today- what was the situation, the plot, the bad guy, the hero, the conflict and the ending. Name the parts for the kids. Get them to try to see story in everything. Then ask them what their story is so far. Talk about God’s story.

Additional Resources: www1.cbn.com/what-bible-says-about-witnessing

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

Roger Peer: roger.peer@comcast.net * Eric Haskins: ehaskins@christchurch.us