

2
WEEK

My Story

Finding your place
in the story

Weekend Message Notes

Big Idea..

Next Steps...

Behind the story

Family Chapter (optional)

Watch DVD/Notes

While driving, have you ever arrived at your destination you wondered, “How did I get here?” This can be true when we think about how we have become the person we are and trying to figure out where we are headed next. We often think that our individual story is very separate from God. Let’s continue to explore how our stories are linked to God’s story.

1. *How would someone who knows you well describe you in three words?*

Read Psalm 139:13-16

2. *What do these verses say about God’s direct plan for our lives?*

3. *What are some unique experiences that have shaped you - both positive and negative?*

4. *In addition to experience, we have all made choices which have shaped who we are. How have the choices that you've made in the past shaped who you are now?*

5. *Jason shared that the light spectrum is larger than the eye can see, and that we choose what we look at. What are some practical things you can do to keep your focus off of yourself and on God?*

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

6. *How can we be more intentional about what we allow to influence us?*

Talking to the Author

Lord,

We have been chosen by You—we are priests of the King and because of that, we are holy and pure, we are Your very own. Lord, thank you for calling us out of the darkness and into Your wonderful light. Help us to remember who we are in You, and live mightily in us as we shine Your light in the darkness. Once we were less than nothing; but now we are Your own. Once we knew very little of Your kindness; but now our very lives have been changed by it. Help us to live beyond our own story so we can align our story with Yours. Amen

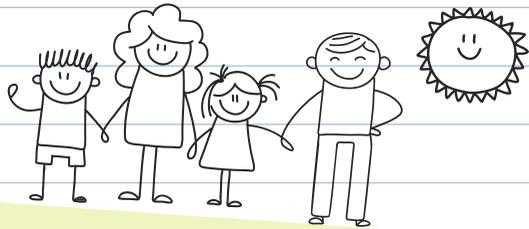
Group prayer requests

Unfinished reflections

Is your story just about you?

What do you, personally, have to change to align your story with God's Story?

Family Chapter



"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalm 16:11

Draw a long, horizontal line on a piece of butcher paper and make several vertical marks on it, with each representing a year. Write years on the time-line in chronological order, beginning with the year that the oldest person in your small group was born and ending with the present year. Tape the time-line to the wall so the kids can easily write on it. God has been guiding the lives of your children since they were born. Invite your small group to collaborate on the giant time-line and write down special events and memories from their lives. These might include the day they were born, the day they first rode a bicycle, the day they became a big brother or sister, etc. Once each person gets a chance to contribute to the time-line, go through it in chronological order.

Borrowed from: TruResources Summer 2016 Lesson 10

Digging deeper into the story

Experience

Have you ever stopped to consider that your life experiences can be used by God to shape us into His image and release our God-given potential in the world? Take a minute to list six turning/shaping points in your life. Three of them should be negative experiences which were hard for you (*like a bad choice you made, something that happened to you, a traumatic experience, etc.*), and three of them should be positive experiences that caused great joy or passion (*like a kind word, a great vacation, an accomplishment, etc.*) The key is that all six have either affected how you think and live, or you made a turn/change in your life as a result.

Negative

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Positive

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Read Genesis 50:19-20

If you are familiar with the story of Joseph, you know he had many life experiences, both good and bad. One of the things that became characteristic of Joseph was his attitude about life's experiences which is shown so beautifully in these verses. Joseph saw all experiences, even the hard ones, as opportunities to be shaped and used by God.

As you look at the six experiences you wrote, take a minute to think about what God might want to do with them. Is there a way God could redeem some of your hard circumstances?

Is there a way God could leverage what you learned to be of benefit to others?

Is one or more of your take-aways incorrect and a lie that needs to be corrected? (*For example, if someone harmed you, you may be tempted to think, "I'll never trust anyone again."*) Journal your reflections on this important topic:

Digging deeper into the story

choices

We believe God is sovereign over everything. The book of Daniel is probably one of the best books to demonstrate that truth. We see that while God is in complete control, Daniel and his friends had real world choices to make - like if they would participate with God and go His way.

Read Daniel 1:1-21

If you were Daniel, do you think you would have even felt you had a choice in this situation?

What choices did Daniel have? What potential ways could he have gone?

Why do you think he made those choices?

If you didn't already know the outcome, would that have been a choice you would have made? Why or why not?

What do you think God is trying to show you from this story in relation to your personal story?

