

# Yesterday. Today. Forever.

## Module: Sharing the Story

### Lesson 4: In His Story

#### Objectives

- Students will think about how they identify personally with characters in a story as an insight to how God identifies with them.
- Students will consider that God can personally identify with them as characters in His story.
- Students will encourage each other that they have a meaningful place in God's story.

#### Materials Needed:

- ☐ optional: Paper, Markers and Pens (Students can story board, take notes, draw, whatever helps students share what they are experiencing.)
- ☐ Movie Clip (e.g. Lord of the Rings-Fellowship of the Ring. Scene: fellowship forms at Rivendell) **Leader's note:** Any clip with strong characters will do, watch as little as 2 minutes or have a special movie night and make this a 2 part lesson. Make sure characters share life in the clip (3 types of sharing from last lesson) Another option is to read or watch simple stories depicting life and emotion. (Fairy Tales or YouTube clips)
- ☐ 1 Bible per student

## Minds On

**Prompt:** We have gone on quite a journey here: From learning, to living, to loving, to sharing the story. What story??...my story, a little ...your story, partly ...but mostly it is has been His story and how we can be a part of it! Tonight we are going to have some fun and really dive into thinking about how can we make our lives all about His story?

Show a clip or whole movie. Before you start, ask students to choose a character to “be”: to think and feel like, to struggle with, to engage with personally. Make sure that they choose a main character: hero or villain, sidekick, damsel in distress etc. Run through the characters in the scene/movie ahead of time and make sure that each person has clearly chosen a character. It is fine if multiple students choose the same character, but if your group is smaller, and there are enough character for each to have one, that would be good as well.

As you watch the clip, encourage your students to write notes of the things that they felt, saw, heard and experienced as the character.

After the clip **Ask:**     How did it feel being a character, rather than watching as a spectator?  
Did you feel that it was your story more when you identified with one character?

## Action

**Prompt:** We see in the Bible many stories. Some short and sweet, and some that cover generations, and there are even a few stories that carry all the way through the Bible. Those stories are called Meta-Narratives. That is a fancy work for big or over-arching story.

It is key to remember: Even in the smallest of actions, something bigger is always going on. God's creation is one of those Meta-narratives, as is God's redemptive love. Can you see yourself now as a part of something bigger? Something that has been going on for years and decades and centuries and even millennia on earth? Do you believe you are even part of something that is eternal? Take a look at these stories to see how a few biblical characters became a big part of everything God was doing.

Divide students into 2 even groups. Each group will read Genesis 22. One group will take on the role of Abraham, the other as Isaac. Each person is to understand their character's perspective (including emotions, attitudes, thoughts in their mind). Afterwards, have each person number off starting at 1 to however many people are in the group. Have each person partner with their corresponding number (i.e. 1s together, 2s, etc.). They can either act out the story together or talk through the perspectives their character has on the situation. Then have them answer the following questions:

- What happened when God joined the story?
- How did you feel at each part of the story? (e.g. when you were leaving home, on the journey to the mountain, while the altar was being built, etc.)

Gather everyone into the larger group and have 3-4 pairs give their answers.

**Ask:** How did Abraham and Isaac's story become part of God's story here, how did they experience God, build relationship with Him and communicate to Him?

Have a student read Exodus 2:23-25.

**Prompt:** This passage begins by saying that time had passed...in fact 400 years passed, how do you think the people of Israel felt in this story?

(Forgotten, hopeless, alone, unloved)

**Ask:**

- What happened when they cried out to God?
- Do you know what happens next?
- Have you ever cried out to God like this?

- Do you believe God can hear your cries? Your prayers?

**Prompt:** From these examples, we can see that God can interact with our stories in very real ways...both big and small, and in fact, when we get closer to His Story, we can start to see Him at work all around us. And not only that, but he invites us to share what God is doing in our story, and how we are sharing in his!

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

**Ask:** Are there any stories or verses in the Bible, or even phrases that you know of that help you see the reality that God is close and cares?

(As an option, create group art or personal poster boards based on responses.)

**Ask:** Does seeing God act in these stories give you hope that he will act in yours or confidence He is currently at work? What do you think is the key to seeing God act in your story?

(Making your story a part of his!)

**Leader's note:** This would be a good time to share personal examples of God's story meeting yours and how you have been able to see him at work in your life. You could also invite someone from your church to share part of their story with the group.

End in prayer. As you pray, ask them the following questions and have them reflect silently:

- Is their story in His story?
- Are they willing and ready to share some of the stories that God is writing with them?
- Are they are willing to start that relationship (Lord and Savior), practice communication with God (prayer) and have shared experience (New Life in Christ)?

Suggest afterwards if any of them said yes to any of those questions, they should connect with you or another leader to see how that can be done practically.