

Yesterday. Today. Forever.

Module: Sharing the Story

Lesson 2: Shared Story

Objectives:

- Students will see the intersection of God's story and their story.
- Students will identify 3 types of story sharing: communication, common experience and relationship.
- Students will encourage each other that it is good to tell stories to others and begin to understand that it is by story- telling that we learn about life.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix 1
- ☐ optional: 1 copy of Appendix 2
- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix 3 per student
- ☐ 1 pen per student

Leader's Note: If you are planning to use option 3 in lesson 3, bring digital camera and take random/fun pictures, print them out during the week and have them for the group to use in the next lesson.

Minds On

Divide students into groups of 3-4. Have them create promotional material (e.g. a letter, a poster, a travel brochure, a video, a commercial, a skit, etc.) from God to an anonymous person inviting them to visit to heaven or to visit Jesus for a week. (**Leader's note:** Think Expedia commercial or Disneyland ad. You can use some ads on YouTube as samples). Students can be silly and fun but need to be respectful in their presentation. After 10 minutes of preparation, have each group present their promotion.

Prompt: God not only wants you to spend a week with Him, in this life or the next but he wants to share all eternity with you... Yesterday, Today and Forever. Jesus came and gave us an open invitation to share in His story. Some call this faith, some call it salvation, and some call it the good news or new life in Christ.

Action

Prompt: You may have heard we are all connected; it is true we all share a common story. Over the next few minutes, we will explore 3 different ways in which we can connect in our stories.

Have students return to their original groups. Give each student a copy of Appendix 3. Each group chooses a popular film, book or famous story (it doesn't have to be long). Together, they need to identify how the characters communicated together, shared common experiences and had intentional commitment to live out the story together. Each student can write down their answers on the first part of Appendix 3. Each group will present their findings to the larger group. (**Leader's note:** Disney movies and fairy tales work well here. There is an example provided in Appendix 2. There are lots of others that work well.)

Have a student read Romans 5:1-8 (you can use Appendix 1). Have that student repeat the verse that has the phrase: “at just the right time”. Returning to their original groups, have students complete the second part of Appendix 3 together; each group should have a spokesperson to report their findings. Afterwards, gather students into the larger group and ask each group to report their answers.

Ask: How does what Jesus did change our story, if we accept his offer to share in his story with us? What if we ignore or reject his offer?

Consolidate/Debrief

Prompt: Working with God enriches our lives. In Him we connect in all these ways, we communicate and we experience him and we commit our lives to Him. In fact Jesus said. He is the way, the truth, and the life! Those are his 3 types of sharing! Take a moment by yourself and think of your answer to this question: “How would those things make sharing your story that much more enjoyable and why do you think that is?” If Jesus did anything that impacts the way you think or act or live. He has become part of your story!

Ask students to choose a spot in the room by themselves. Give them some time to think about this question and encourage them to write down on the back of Appendix 3 as many details as possible: “In all the ways Jesus has become part of your story which way are you most grateful? Was it what he said, what he did in your life, what he’s shown you, what he did for you, what he does with you today? What he will do someday?” Encourage students to give examples, and then ask why they are grateful.

Afterwards, encourage your students to pray for what is on their hearts and to pray for each other. Giving thanks for the ways God has given us to share our story, our faith and life, with others.

Appendix 1

Romans 5:1-8 New Living Translation (NLT)

Faith Brings Joy

¹ Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Appendix 2

3 Types of Sharing Leader's Sheet with Example

3 Types of Sharing in Movies: Ex. Finding Nemo

Communication: Messages of “You can’t do that” Marlin to Nemo, trying to protect, Dory forgetting and remembering.

Experiences: Over protection turns to great loss, drive to find Nemo. Nemo’s attempts to escape the fish tank. Both stories of overcoming great obstacles

Commitments: Marlin and Nemo both make new friends in the end. Marlin’s unending love for Nemo, giving everything up to Find Nemo.

3 Types of Sharing used by Jesus:

Communication: Bible, Gospels, Famous verses, Jesus spoke the truth to His disciples and others, Jesus shared comforting and challenging words. Jesus is the truth...

Experiences: Jesus walked with the disciples, they lived together did everything together! Jesus is with us in everything. When we wake and when we lie down, when we are at school and at play. Also Jesus calls us into prayer, missions, worship, service, fellowship, bible study etc. Jesus is the way...

Commitment: Spirit moves hearts, causes changes in heart, warmth in Spirit, Jesus offers us new life, Jesus offers us friendship, lordship, teacher, master. Jesus gave his all to us and we in turn should give our all to Him! Jesus is the life!

We share our stories in 3 different ways:

- Communication: what we say and gesture and messages we send
- Experiences: what we do and see with each other what we go through together
- Commitment: Understanding, love, trust, testing, relationships and growth.

Appendix 3

3 Types of Sharing

3 Types of Sharing in Movies

Describe each of the following types of sharing by using examples from a movie.

- Communication:
- Experiences:
- Commitments:

3 Types of Sharing used by Jesus:

Describe each of the following types of sharing by using example from Jesus' life.

- Communication:
- Experiences:
- Commitments:

In what ways did Jesus come at just the right time? In what ways did Jesus come for us?

We share our stories in 3 different ways:

Describe each of the following types of sharing, and give an example from real life:

- Communication:
- Experiences:
- Commitments: