

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

We have committed ourselves to this family at Revolution Church and to walk the path of discipleship together through our prayers, presence, gifts, and service. We know that we need each other to live this life within a faith community. But what's next? What if God desires, not only for us to *be* his disciples, but to also *make* disciples? What does that mean? And what could being a "witness" to Jesus Christ look like in our world today?

Join us this Advent as we prepare to celebrate the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ once again and discover that sometimes the best way to tell the story of Christmas is through our own stories of redemption.

Message Synopsis

Your story is important! Maybe you feel like you don't have much of a story to tell; it is not dramatic enough or compelling. Or maybe you feel it is too private or personal. Maybe you are still caught on that word *evangelism* or a former church experience! These anxieties are real, but the solution can be simple. "Evangelism is sharing your story in whatever way God has uniquely wired you to do so. It's about doing the work of Christ and being his witness in the way you live your life. Regardless of how you do it, the important thing is *that* you do it." Your story is important! "It includes joy, sorrow, pain, faith, and love. You know it better than anyone else. And it is important to God. God wants to use it to continue God's greatest ongoing project: the transformation of the world!"

Key Scriptures

Romans 10:13-17

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. What was something that stood out to you or spoke to you about the testimony shared on Sunday morning? Did you connect with any part of their story?
2. Do you feel comfortable sharing your story right now? Do you feel like it is worthy to share with others? Why or why not?
3. Do you believe God can use your story?
4. When someone is willing to hear your story, the main thing they want to know is
 - a. What you were like before you experienced Christ.
 - b. How you came to know and experience Christ.
 - c. What you have been like after surrendering your life to Christ.
5. Think about your answers to these prompts and consider sharing it with members of your house group as practice. [Some tips: keep it simple, clear, and accessible].

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “The Importance of Your Story” by Jeremy Cowart (2 min)

(located in the “Renovation Home Groups” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/285703>

1. Take a moment to discuss the video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Jeremy used the Olympics to demonstrate the value of knowing someone’s story, pointing out that we most-often root for the people whose stories we know and relate to, who we don’t see as “just another athlete.” How many of the people in your life would view you as “just another Christian” (if a Christian at all)? How many truly know your story? What is the difference in their attitude toward you? With which group do you have the most impact and influence (share an example if you have one)?
3. What (or whose) stories have impacted your life the most? Share one of these stories with your group and why it has made such a difference?
4. We’re all “deeply craving to connect with one another.” How does connection with others impact our faith journey and the receptiveness of others to the Gospel? Can we effectively follow Christ without those connections? Why or why not?

Family-Related Questions:

1. Have you ever shared your story with your kids? If you’re taking time today to share your story with your group, consider inviting your kids into the room as you share. If not, make some time this week to talk to your kids about your faith journey.
 - a. Discuss with your group how you can discern what to share and not share with your kids about your journey, depending on their age and maturity. Are there parts of your story you don’t want them to know? Why or why not?
 - b. Sharing our stories doesn’t have to be awkward, intimidating, lesson-teaching, or exemplary. It doesn’t have to have a hidden agenda. It is simply sharing ourselves with others and celebrating what God has done in our lives. With our kids, it also helps them discover more of their own story and where they came from. Discuss some ways that you can make your stories fun and engaging for your kids, without it turning it into something weird.