



WEEK 2

LET'S LOOK AT SOME SPECIFICS WITHIN THE PSALMIST'S STORY THAT WILL HELP US DIVE EVEN DEEPER INTO HOW WE SHARE THE LIFE CHANGE WE'VE EXPERIENCED. THERE ARE THREE IMPORTANT THINGS WE CAN LEARN.

1. WE MUST SHARE OUR STORY WIDELY

"COME AND LISTEN, ALL WHO FEAR GOD, AND I WILL TELL WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR ME."
VS 16

THE PSALMIST CALLS OUT TO ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN TO HEAR HOW HIS OWN LIFE HAS BEEN RADICALLY CHANGED BY THE POWER AND LOVE OF GOD. ANYONE WHO FEARS GOD AND WANTS TO KNOW THEIR CREATOR, GATHER AROUND. IT'S AN INDISCRIMINATE CALL TO AN OPEN AUDIENCE. BUT IT'S AN INTERACTION HE (THE PSALMIST) IS INSTIGATING. HE'S YELLING FOR OTHERS TO LISTEN, NOT WAITING FOR THEM TO COME AND ASK.

HOW WIDELY HAVE YOU SHARED YOUR STORY?
HAVE YOU EVER SHARED YOUR STORY? WHY OR WHY NOT?
HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR STORY IMPACT SOMEONE ELSE?

2. WE MUST SHARE OUR STORY FULLY.

IF YOU READ VERSES 17-19 QUICKLY, IT MAY SEEM THAT EVERYTHING IN THEM IS HAPPENING AT ONCE... BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE. WHEN WE READ, "I CRIED OUT TO HIM WITH MY MOUTH", WE MIGHT WANT TO IMMEDIATELY READ INTO THE NEXT PART OF THE VERSE WHICH SAYS "AND PRAISE WAS ON MY TONGUE." BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THERE IS A TIME GAP INFERRED HERE. THE CRYING OUT AND PRAISING DIDN'T HAPPEN AT ONCE. WHAT THE PSALMIST IS DOING IS SUMMING UP TWO VERY DISTINCT ASPECTS OF HIS STORY. THE FIRST IS HIS CRYING OUT TO GOD B/C HE WAS IN NEED OF SOMETHING. CRYING OUT TO GOD AND ASKING FOR HIS INTERVENTION. HE HAD BEEN IN A PLACE OF DESPERATION, OR HURT, OR FEAR, OR HOPELESSNESS. AFTER A SEASON OF CRYING OUT TO GOD, THE PSALMIST DOES GET TO A POINT WHERE "PRAISE WAS ON MY TONGUE." WHETHER GOD DELIVERED FROM OR THROUGH WHATEVER THE TRIAL WAS, WE DON'T KNOW. BUT HE PROVED HIMSELF GOOD REGARDLESS.



AND I LOVE THE LITTLE CAVEAT HE DROPS IN HERE IN VERSE 18 (TXT). SOMEWHERE IN THE GAP BETWEEN CRYING OUT AND PRAISING, HE KNEW THAT SIN AND REBELLING AGAINST GOD WAS ONLY GOING TO MAKE THINGS IN HIS SITUATION WORSE AND POSSIBLY PROLONG THE TIME IN THAT GAP. AND WE CAN RELATE THERE TOO. IN TWO VERSES, THE PSALMIST SUMS UP THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY OF HIS JOURNEY. AND THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF THIS STRUGGLE COULD BE USED TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS WHO ARE IN DIFFERENT PLACES. THOSE WHO WERE IN THE DARK PLACES OF NEED COULD SAY, “YOU WENT THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THIS TOO? I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE. YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL? TELL ME MORE ABOUT HOW YOU WADED THROUGH THIS.” THOSE STRUGGLING WITH SIN IN THEIR TRIALS COULD SAY, “I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU’RE SAYING. I’M HOLDING ON TO SOMETHING THAT KEEPS SETTING ME BACK. HOW DID YOU FIND THE STRENGTH TO MOVE ON?!” OR TO THOSE WHO HAD SEEN A RECENT VICTORY COULD PRAISE WITH THE PSALMIST.

THE FAMOUS PREACHER, CHARLES SPURGEON, SAID THIS ABOUT PSALM 66: “SOME CRY WHO DO NOT SING. SOME SING WHO DO NOT CRY. BOTH TOGETHER ARE BEST.” THIS IS WHY IT’S IMPORTANT TO BE TRANSPARENT WITH OUR STORIES. BECAUSE THERE ARE SEASONS WHERE YOU WILL BE THE SHOUTER OF VICTORIES...AND THERE WILL BE SEASONS WHEN YOU GATHER AROUND SOMEONE ELSE, LISTENING TO THEIR STORY TO HELP PUSH YOU FORWARD IN DARK TIMES. BOTH ARE NECESSARY.

WHAT’S THE DANGER OF SUGARCOATING OR ONLY SHARING THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF OUR FAITH STORY?

HOW DOES A TRANSPARENT TESTIMONY HELP ENGAGE THOSE FAR FROM GOD?

SHARE YOUR STORY MISSIONALLY

LOOK AT VERSE 20. THE WHOLE POINT OF THE PSALMIST TALKING ABOUT GOD, SHARING STORIES OF SCRIPTURE, AND VALIDATING HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WAS TO POINT TO AND PRAISE GOD. HE GATHERED OTHERS TO LISTEN AS A MISSIONAL ENDEAVOR. HE WANTED PEOPLE TO SEE THAT LIFE CHANGE HAPPENS AT THE INTERSECTION OF OUR STORIES AND HIS STORY (CIRCLE).

HOW CAN YOU CRAFT YOUR STORY FULLY AND MISSIONALLY SO THAT YOU ARE READY TO SHARE? HAVE YOU EVER WRITTEN OUT OR PROCESSED THROUGH YOUR TESTIMONY? HOW HAS SOMEONE ELSE’S STORY IMPACTED YOUR OWN?



WEEK 2 | FORERUNNERS AT HOME

Start this week by challenging your family to a game. Each person must pick a topic to talk about for one solid minute. The subject can be anything—a favorite football team, activity, movie, whatever. The only rule is, once you’ve started talking about that subject, you can’t stop until the minute is up. No hesitations, not even verbal pauses like “uh” or “ah” are allowed. Every family member who can talk nonstop about something for the full minute wins.

After the game, ask the following questions:

- How did you decide what subject you would talk about?
- How did you get so smart about your subject?
- How often do you talk about this subject with other people?

Say, “There are certain things we love to talk about. One subject we HAVE to share with other people is the story about how Jesus has changed our lives. It’s the best, most important story we have to tell!”*

READ TOGETHER PSALM 107:2. Explain that the verse simply means if God has saved you from sin and given you the free gift of eternal life through Jesus, tell people about it!

CHALLENGE AT LEAST ONE PERSON IN THE FAMILY TO SHARE THEIR SALVATION STORY BY ANSWERING THESE THREE QUESTIONS:

- What was your life like before you met Jesus?
- How did you make the choice to follow Jesus?
- How has Jesus changed you since you’ve given your life to Him?

Finish by praying a prayer of thanks for God’s saving power through Jesus. Pray that God would give each follower of Jesus in the family the opportunity and courage to share your stories with others. Pray for those in the family who have not yet made a decision to follow Jesus to be ready and willing when God calls to choose Jesus!

**There’s a strong possibility that your child hasn’t made the choice to follow Jesus yet. Don’t worry, that doesn’t change the truth of this lesson! Before you progress past this point you may want to say something like, “Now, you haven’t chosen for yourself to become a follower of Jesus quite yet. One day God is going to stir your heart to make that decision and I pray with all my heart that when He calls you, you will say YES to JESUS!” This is also a great time to share the Gospel message with your child and answer any questions he or she may have.*