Week 3 - Discovering Stories

3Story® is a way of life that guides followers of Jesus to be good news while telling stories of the Good News.



Consider the stories of others...those in my life who do not know Jesus. List as many names as you can of those you love who do not yet follow Jesus. We call this your "Wishlist.

Consider how you've sensed Jesus inviting them toward Himself?

My Wishlist

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-
-

Reflecting on Discovering

Two words are key to discovering stories, and really, they sum up 3Story®.

Those words are: _____ and _____.

Experiencing God's Story - John 4:1-42

- What are you noticing about Jesus?
- What are you feeling?
- What questions come to your mind?
- How is this encounter impacting you? What is the result of the interaction for you (in this people group)?
- What do we learn about loving people in this encounter Jesus has with the woman?

Jesus Encounters People

- Jesus meets them where they are.
- Jesus asks discovering questions.
- Jesus tailors the telling of God's Story to the individual and the situation.
- Jesus speaks the truth in love.
- Jesus gives hope (Living Water).

Tips for Discovering

- Be _____
- Be _____
- Be _____
- Be a _____

Consider: How might you apply these 4 tips with those on your Wishlist?

Look again at your Wishlist:

- What have you learned about them by listening?
- What is something Jesus loves about this person?
- How well would they say that you have listened?
- What would you like to learn about them still?
- What is one thing you can do this week that will convey that you love them and will help you discover more of their story?

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Formation Group Reflection Questions:

Life Story Snapshot Question: **Everyone answers: 1-2 minutes each

Talk about a time in your life when you felt truly listened to. How did you know the other person was listening? —or— Name a time when someone confided in you… and you were the listener. What did you do to let them know it was safe to share with you?

- Think about the people on your wishlist. Name aloud some valuable qualities of persons on that list. No need to mention their names.

- Who do you know is good at drawing others out? How would you personally like to improve in the area of Discovering?

HOLY EXPERIMENT: HOST A 3STORY® ENCOUNTER

Choose a not-yet-following-Christ friend (or family or couple) with whom you would like to connect more intentionally—someone from your Wishlist is ideal. Recommendation: partner with a friend, couple or family from Hope to host this friend(s)/family.

Host a meal or dessert and invite your friend (or couple or family). **The challenge**: simply let them know ahead of time that you'd like to get to know them and their story better. No strings. Just awkward honesty. Make this invite authentic by addressing and embracing the potentially awkward reality of it being a time of story-telling. Communicate that you're genuinely interested in simply getting to know them.

As you gather, provide a story-based question(s). Pray ahead of time about which one(s) to ask. Do not overthink it. Offer the question to the group while you eat… and everyone answers. Go for it. (Some examples below)

Bonus: Seek to affirm one another and/or pray at that end of your gathering time if God opens a door for either/both.

Possible Story Snapshot Questions:

1. Tell us about an important person in your life:
- Describe them.
- Why are they important to you?
- Share a fun memory with them.
- How do you feel when you are around them?
- How has God used them to shape your story?

2. Tell us about a challenging time period in your life:
- Describe that time.
- Describe how you felt during that time.
- How do you feel about it now?
- How was God present for you in that season of your life?

3. Talk about a good time in your life (a time when things felt right):
- Describe that time. What made it special.
- Describe how you felt during that time.
- How do you feel about it now?
- What was your experience of God like during that time?

4. Describe what it is like to live in your family/household:
- What do the people act like?
- What does it sound like?
- What does it feel like to be you in that space?

5. Tell us how you see yourself and how you believe others see you:
- How would one of your family members describe you?
- What is one achievement or something you're proud of?
- How is your self-talk?
- "If you really knew me, you would know _____."
- In what space do you feel most yourself? Why is that?