

HIS STORY, MINE

When Your Story and Jesus' Story Become One



Larae's Story

Perhaps you could tell from her story that Larae already had a relationship with Jesus Christ, even as her life was sliding sideways.

QUESTION: Do you ever wonder if God takes his eyes off of you when you take your eyes off of him? Would he ever give up on you?

One of the many names of Jesus is "Faithful and True." When we disobey him, ignore him, or even treat him badly, Jesus still loves us and wants his best for us. Jesus died for us! No one can be "for us" more than Jesus is for us.

RECOMMENDATION: Read the story of the Prodigal Son in the gospel of Luke, chapter 15, verses 11-32. The father in this story represents the nature of God's love - generous, deeply concerned, rejoicing when the relationship (though on the verge of being lost and dead) is restored and forgiveness is received.

Larae is very transparent in admitting that her change of venue didn't solve any of her problems and her independent spirit only led to a "tornado" of suffering. Worse still, she turned to "numbing" instead of turning to God.

QUESTION: Which challenge or problem in your life are you willing to admit is too big for you to solve alone? Which trial has you hiding, numbing, or denying in order to cope?

Jesus was right there in the middle of Larae's tornado with her. She says, "my lowest moments ... are the moments when I felt like God was speaking to me the most." God is also with YOU right now. Regardless of the situation you are in, no matter what you have or haven't done, Jesus is with you. Saying the same thing he said to Larae: "I still love you. We can work through this. But

you have to come to me."

QUESTION: Do you know how to give your circumstances, your life, over to Jesus? Do you know how to pray a prayer of faith?

Even followers of Jesus can forget who he is. When Larae "hit rock bottom," she remembered who he is. He is loving, and strong, and faithful. Jesus can be trusted. And we do business with this trustworthy God through prayer.

RECOMMENDATION: Talk to God in prayer and tell him you trust him and will entrust him with all of your hurts and hopes—your whole life. Be sure to listen in prayer as well. God is a God who speaks. Your obedience to what he tells you in prayer is the evidence that you will be faithful to him, even as he is faithful to you.

One way to grow in prayer and in the life of faith is to pursue it with other believers. Connecting with a church in the North Bay of San Francisco could be a good next step for you. If so, we invite and encourage you to visit us, www.rebachurches.org, to locate a church near you in Napa, Sonoma, Solano, or Marin.

Everyone appearing in the *His Story, Mine* video series is a member of a Redwood Empire Baptist Church. They exemplify the kind of loving and authentic people you will meet at our regional churches. Come, walk your life path in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Let Your story and his story become one!

"But the father said ... Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this child of mine was dead and is alive again; was lost, but now is found.' So they all began to celebrate." Luke 15:22-24