



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

January 29-30, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

My Story – Week 2 (My Story)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

My story can help connect others to God's story.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Psalm 107:1-2
John 9:1-3, 6-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Face Booty Awesome"

What a great game title! Watch the video clip and determine if the person falls on their face, falls on their booty, or ends up being awesome! Face = hands on your face, Booty = hands on your booty, Awesome = Hands in the air. It's process-of-elimination as you play the game and the last student standing is the grand champion!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week AND your Christmas?

Who is someone in your life who tells the best stories? What makes them so good at it?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"My Story" – Week 2 (My Story)
January 29-30, 2022

Every single one of us has a story. Every story is unique and specific to us. However, there are parts of my story that could connect with your story or even the other way around. Last week, you heard someone share their story of what God has done in their life, and since I'm teaching today, I figured it might as well be my turn!

(Teacher's Note: Briefly share, in 3-5 minutes, your testimony about how you committed your life to Christ and what He is currently doing in your life)

There's a verse in the Old Testament, Psalm 107:1-2, that says this: *"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story..."*

The word redeemed means we have been changed by God and when we share our faith in Him with people, we tell our story. Sometimes, it's better to ask someone to tell their story just so we can be good listeners! I believe that Christians should be good listeners and ask good questions when people are opening up to us and telling us their story. It shows them that we care, and we are interested in what they have to say.

However, at some point, I need to share my story and you need to share your story with others. But here's a question for you: have you ever done that before? Have you ever shared your story with anyone? Do you even know your story? If someone came up and asked you why you are a Christian, what would you say to them? Have you thought about that before?

I know what some of you are thinking: "I don't have a story. My family comes to church and tells me to believe in God...so I do" or "My family doesn't go to church or believe in God, but they're fine with whatever I believe" or "Why is important for me to have a relationship with God? Isn't it more important for my parents to have one?" **Students, listen – every person has a decision to make...including you. All of us need to take ownership of our own faith and our own journey. If God has changed our life in any way, then you have a story to tell!**

THE MESSAGE

If we are going to share our faith with people, then we need to be willing to share our story. That's the focus of our THP (Take Home Point) for this week:

My story can help connect others to God's story!

How is that possible? How can my story connect with God's? Here's how...my story and your story is powerful. A story alone can open people up to God in a way that they may have never done before – simply by sharing our story and experiences! There's a great example of this in the Bible in the New Testament in John 9:1-3, 6-11. Check this out!

"As he [Jesus] went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him..." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

Here is a man who was healed by Jesus in a crazy way! Talk about a story! In fact, I am now calling it the "Spit and Mud" story!

Students, one encounter with Jesus can change you forever. Just one! I am sure this man told this story for the rest of his life! I mean, how could you not?! He hasn't seen anything since birth and this man spits in the dirt, rubs what is now mud in his eyes, and now he can see...AND...this person happened to be Jesus who claimed to be the Son of God!!!

Here's my question for you...what's your "Spit and Mud" story with God? Now, some of you might be like, "I don't have anything close to that!" You know what, that's ok. God is working in all of us, and we ALL have a story to tell about our life. What is something crazy or cool that God has done or taught you in your life? I want you to spend some time thinking about that right now. Just as I shared my story with you at the beginning of this message, I am going to allow you the same opportunity in our group discussion today.

THE MESSAGE

Instead of doing all of our discussion questions during our group/table time, I want to give you 5 minutes to write down your story. If you're a Christian, talk about when that happened and how it happened...what events or conversations led up to that decision. Think about how those experiences have shaped you into the person you are today. I want you to write down what you would say to someone who would ask you, "When did you become a Christian and why?" Write down what God is currently teaching you in your life right now. Leaders...I would for you guys to participate in this as well!

For those of you here who may not come to church very often or may not be a Christian, just write down some experiences that have happened in your life that have shaped you into the person you are today. Talk about why you struggle to believe in God or why you aren't a Christian. Be honest. This is a safe place to discuss some of those things.

We want every student to understand our **THP: My story can help connect others to God's story**. There are tons of stories in the Bible that can relate to our experiences. In fact, God can relate to all of us because He sent His own Son, Jesus, to be a real person and He went through everything you and I go through.

Just one simple question: "What's my story?" Before you start writing anything down and we do group discussions, I would like to pray for us; that we could be as mature (because I don't want to take this time lightly), honest, and open about this as possible. Let's pray!

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

What did you learn from _____'s story today?
How has God changed his/her life? (**Leader's Note: Fill in the blank with whoever shared today**)

Each of you has some paper and a pen. Today, I want us to take time to write out our story. Just like _____ shared today, each of us have a story and our story can introduce others to God's story. Sometimes, people call sharing your story a "testimony" or "sharing your testimony." Maybe you've done this before and maybe you haven't. Here are a couple of questions to think about and answer that will help you write your story:

- When did you make the decision to become a Christian? Why did you make that decision? How did it happen?
- In what ways has your life changed since you made that decision, and what difference has it made in your life?
- What is God teaching you in your life right now?

Right now, take a few minutes to write down your story. Once all of us are finished, we will go around the group and have each person share. Don't be nervous about sharing what you wrote down. Let's all commit to be good listeners while others are sharing and to be as open as we feel comfortable being about what we wrote down!

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

All of us have a story to tell. The more we share it, the more comfortable we become with sharing it. Remember – sharing our story can introduce someone to God and that may change that person's life forever.

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister