**“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!** 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.

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!