



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

February 5-6, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

My Story – Week 3 (Their Story)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Whose story can I listen to?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 3
Luke 24:13-35

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Ancient Artifacts"

What are these weird technological devices?! A VCR? A camcorder? An EZ Bake Oven? They may not be ancient to some of our leaders, but they are to our students. In this game, each video will show a different retro toy or gadget. In groups, the students must decide what it is and what it used for. Scoring is subjective – 1 point for the correct answer and another point for the correct function. Highest score wins!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

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

What was the highlight of your week AND your Christmas?

Would you consider yourself to be a good listener? Why or why not?

Who is the best listener you know and why?

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

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"My Story" – Week 3 (Their Story)

February 5-6, 2022

Hey everyone! We are currently in a series called "My Story" and today we are doing our third week: "Their Story." Now, when I say "their story," you might be wondering who I'm talking about? Well, it could be a lot of people – people in your family, friends at school, other kids on your team or in band/choir with you, your neighbors, or maybe even a complete stranger.

They might be a Christian; they may not be. As we're going to talk about today, it is just as important to listen to others' stories as it is to share our own. In fact, we're going to practice listening to someone's story right now because I'd love to share mine with you!

(Leaders 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)

Listening to someone else's story is very important. It lets them know that you care, and you're interested in what's going on in their life. I mean, how many times have you said to somebody in the hallway at school or someone you know out in public, "What's up?" or "How's it going?" or "How are you doing today?" and you actually get more than a one-word answer. We ask those questions, but we aren't really prepared (or sometimes even interested) in hearing how people are ACTUALLY doing! It almost feels weird if they genuinely answer the question!

Our **THP (Take Home Point)** is in the form of a question today because I want it to cause us to really think about how we would answer it. Here it is...

Whose story can I listen to?

Jesus had many incredible qualities, but I think one of his best was how good of a listener he was. He wasn't someone who wanted all the attention – even though many of the things he did drew attention. He spoke to large crowds, but he also always had time for that one person.

THE MESSAGE

In John 3 in the New Testament, we see Jesus listening and having a conversation with a man named Nicodemus, a religious leader who wanted to talk to him. Nicodemus was afraid his reputation would be ruined if the other religious leaders found out he was hanging out with Jesus, so he met him at night. Jesus could have been like, "Oh, it's too late...maybe another time, Nicodemus." He could have even said, "Nicodemus, who cares what those other guys think? Just come visit me during the day like everyone else!"

But he didn't...he met him, listened to him, and answered his questions respectfully. Jesus was willing to listen to his story.

There was another time in the New Testament in Luke 24:13-29 where right after Jesus had risen from the dead. Think about that...RISEN FROM THE DEAD. He appears to two of his disciples walking along the road. Now, they have no idea that it's actually him and Luke doesn't really specify why they didn't recognize him. He just comes up and says, "So, what are you guys talking about?" and they're like "What are we talking about?! Are you like the only person on planet Earth who doesn't know what just happened? Our teacher, Jesus, was executed on a cross. We thought he was going to be the Messiah. We thought he was going to save us and now he's dead!" Jesus told them, "Well, didn't the Messiah have to go through all that stuff?" And right there, he started to explain all of the prophecies in the Old Testament (by the way a prophecy in the Bible is a prediction about something or someone that ends up being true later) about what the Messiah was going to be like...and Jesus fit every description.

Pretty cool, right? They had no idea it was actually Jesus! Check out what happens next in Luke 24:28-35: *"As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread."*

THE MESSAGE

Even though Jesus obviously knew what happened, he still took time to listen to them. Then, he went and shared a meal with them, which was the very same thing he did with his disciples before he died. He could have gone off and done all these crazy awesome things just to show off how he had risen from the dead. Instead, he just spent time with his friends. If the God of the universe, Jesus, can listen to someone's story and just have a meaningful conversation, don't you think we should be doing the same?

I have a question for you: who is that person in your life? As our THP says: **Whose story can I listen to?** Is there anyone in your life who you know is struggling and all they need is someone to just care about them, talk to them, and listen to what they have to say?

Last week, we read a verse from the Old Testament that talks about sharing your story. It's from Psalm 107:1-2, which says this, *"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story..."*

As we have challenged you to think about your own story and then sharing it with others, I want to challenge you again to listen to someone else's story. Ask them what they think about God. Ask them how they're REALLY doing. Invite them to come to church with you. Just be willing to listen to and encourage them because we ALL need friends like that! Pray and ask God who that person might be. Pray that He will help you be ready when the opportunity presents itself. Let's close with prayer before we start our group discussions!

(Teacher's Note: Pray and then close the message)

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**)

Why is it important to be a good listener to someone else's story? How can this show God's love to that person?

Is there someone in your life where you could make a commitment to listen to their story in the next couple of weeks? Why would you choose this particular person? How do you think God wants to use you to help them?

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

Listening to someone's story can be the greatest display of friendship. If someone is struggling or just needs someone to listen to them, we can give a powerful example of God's love to that person. Let's commit to do that over the next couple of weeks!

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

