

living a missional life

The Power of Story

1. Words are Powerful

Psalm 119:130 *The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. (ESV)*

Proverbs 12:18 *There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (ESV)*

Proverbs 17:27 *Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. (ESV)*

Ecclesiastes 9:17 *The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. (ESV)*

Proverbs 16:24 *Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. (ESV)*

Ecclesiastes 10:12 *The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him. (ESV)*

Deuteronomy 32:2 *May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. (ESV)*

- How we talk about God's story—explaining who He is and what He has done.
- How we talk about our personal experience with God—explaining the main thing HE has done in our lives.

2. God has a story. Learn to tell it well!

When you build friendships and discover others stories, God is going to spiritually open doors and you are going to have opportunities to tell others why you started walking with God.

The Bridge Illustration—simple—powerfully shows what God has done.

3. You have a story—Learn to tell it well!

You were different before Christ than you are after Christ flooded your life with things like grace, mercy, and love.

Luke 5:17-26 ¹⁷On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ And behold, some men were bringing on

a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, ¹⁹but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²²When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? ²³Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? ²⁴But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." ²⁵And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

Before and Afters:

"I was striving ... but now I'm at peace."

"I was self-destructive ... but now I'm healthy."

"Guilty, but now liberated."

"Fear-stricken, but now confident."

"Despairing, but now hopeful!"

Why stories lose their power:

The Christ-follower won't shut up.

The Christ-follower isn't clear about the main theme.

The Christ-follower uses christianese/religionese.

The Christ-follower acts superior.

Assignment:

Write down your story and email it to the church email (lifehousechurch.updates@gmail.com) and we will evaluate it and let you know thumbs up or thumbs down.