

5. Practice telling your story.

Identify here the subject of a conversation you may have with one of the Top 5 people you regularly pray for who are far from God:

Sketch a conversation on this topic using the second or third framework from the sermon:

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SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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**BLESS - Part 7**

“Share Your Story” (Part 1)

Ephesians 2:13

The key to sharing our faith in a way that’s natural, relational, and more effective is found in the word \_\_\_\_\_.

**The 5 BLESS Missional Practices:**

- **B**egin with prayer.
- **L**isten with care.
- **E**at together (share your life).
- **S**teward your resources
- **S**erve in love.
- **S**hare your story.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARING YOUR STORY**

Sharing YOUR story is the most effective approach to sharing THE story of the Gospel.

No one is going to figure out the story of God on their \_\_\_\_\_.

If you don’t share story, some people will conclude that they can never be a Christian because they can never be like \_\_\_\_\_.

**THE POWER OF STORIES**

According to brain research, we’re hard-wired for \_\_\_\_\_.

Most of the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_.

“Imagine Jesus telling his followers, ‘According to the latest surveys, priests and Levites are 42.3% less likely than Samaritans to help travelers on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho—on which, violent crime has increased significantly in the last decade.’” (Arthur Brooks)

We’re hard-wired by God to be changed, to be motivated, to \_\_\_\_\_ from stories.

In the western world \_\_\_\_\_ in 10 people prefer to learn through a story!

One of the reasons stories are so powerful is because the listener has to suspend their own perspective, to a degree, in order to enter the storyteller's \_\_\_\_\_.

### **HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY (even if your story is "boring")**

1. Always remember that the Gospel is a story, so tell your story \_\_\_\_\_ God's story.

The gospel contains a whole set of \_\_\_\_\_, but those ideas are embedded in a story, the story of God.

- Creation
  - Separation
  - Redemption
  - New Creation
2. Use a "redemptive \_\_\_\_\_" to tell your story. (Ephesians 2:13; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 3:23-24)
    - Once I was...
    - But now...
    - Through/By/Because of...
  3. Share a story about a time you experienced a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith, including the gospel story.
    - I put my faith in Christ at an early age.
    - But it became more real or personal to me when...
    - Now I...

### **Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions**

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Now that we have gone through the entire BLESS strategy, what do you find most challenging and most exciting?
3. What makes your personal faith story feel boring or sound exciting?
4. Read Ephesians 2:13, Colossians 1:13-14, and Romans 3:23-24. What are some of the objective changes completed by receiving the gospel?