

## Storyline



Jody Hooven | November 13, 2011

**In a nutshell:** Our story... successes, failures, blessings... is a part of God's big story.

**Icebreaker:** Jody told of meeting a pastor at lunch who said: "Tell me your story."

**Discuss:** What's your story... in 60 seconds? (Time yourself, or have someone else act as "timekeeper." Dole out severe penalties for those who go too long.)

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### To make the most of our Storyline, we need to:

Understand that our story is unique and amazing. Looking back, you will be able to see God at work through it all. Our "testimony" is where *our story* and *God's story* collide.

**Remember our story.** Read 1 Samuel 17:34-37. Use multiple translations if you have them. David remembered his story... his encounters with the lion and the bear... when he encountered Goliath. He knew that the same God who helped him then could help him now. When we remember our story, we realize that the God we trusted in the past can be trusted now.

**Discuss:** Where has God been at work in your past? Can you share (quickly!) a specific instance where God's involvement in your life was obvious?

**Share our story.** Sharing how God blessed or changed *us* shows others how God can change *them*. Sharing with others how God worked in *my* story shows then how God wants to work in *theirs*.

**Discuss:** Would you be willing to share with others about God's goodness to you so that they may see God at work in their lives, too? What would it take for this to happen?

**Commit to live a better story.** You don't want to reach the end of your life and look back, thinking, "I wish I had lived differently."

**Discuss:** What do you need to change in your life (starting today) to begin to live for a better story?

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**As a Group:** We need to know each other's stories... the trivial and the important. It helps us build trust in each other, and see how God has worked in each of our lives.

**Discuss:** Do you regularly use "icebreakers\*" to get to know each other... or do you skip over them? Have you ever spent an extended time together as a group... over a long meal or on a "retreat" so you could get to know each other better?

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\* *Icebreakers*... non-threatening personal questions that help us get to know each other... are included in these study notes. Examples: What's the worst job you ever had? What's the last book you read (on your own... not required reading for work or school)? What is your dream vacation (if money is no object)?