

MISSIO DEI WEEK 5

THE MISSION OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE



REFLECTION 1

How Do You Fit into The Story of God?

Before we go further, let's spend a moment considering the story told over the course of this study—this time, in a personal way. Spend 30 seconds silently reflecting on how you have found yourself in God's story. Pray that God would give you wisdom to discern how you fit into His story.



READ

In the beginning, there was the one, true God. And then there was you. You were spoken into existence by a God who is good, powerful, and deeply personal. The world you were supposed to be created into was full of life and beauty, mountains, oceans, light, and air. You were made in God's image: created to reflect His character, to walk with Him, to care for His world, and to love others. Every part of creation sang with wholeness, and you were meant to be part of that song.

But something wasn't right. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, you were born into a world broken by sin and shame. Like them, you chose to live on your own terms. You reached for independence, for the right to decide what is good and evil. Shame, fear, and division crept in. You hid from the One who made you. Because of the fall, the world you know is fractured: relationships are splintered, creation is groaning, and your heart is longing for wholeness.

Still, God is on His mission. He sent Jesus, His only Son, to redeem the world. Fully God and fully man, Jesus touched the untouchable, forgave the unforgivable, and spoke of a Kingdom where the poor are blessed and the lost are found. He carried your rebellion to the cross, taking the weight of your sin upon Himself. And then, against all darkness and despair, He rose. Death itself unraveled.

Now, you live in between the already and the not yet. You're invited into Jesus' new Kingdom, to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as a reflection of God's goodness. You're invited to join a people called the Church, not yet a perfect people, but a people who are being redeemed. As a member of the Church, you're called to love, serve, forgive, and bear witness that God is still on His mission. You can do this by taking the Gospel (good news) to every corner of the world.



READ (CONT.)

One day, the story will reach its end, or maybe its new beginning. Jesus will return. Everything broken will be made whole. Every tear will be wiped away. You'll stand in a world where heaven and earth are one, and the song that started in the garden will rise again, worshiping and bringing glory to the one, true, good, and beautiful God.

This is the true story of the whole world, and it is still being written through you. How have you responded? Are you redeemed or are you still following in the footsteps of Adam and Eve? Have you surrendered to Christ and repented of your sin? Is now the moment for you to follow Jesus?



DISCUSS

- How did you feel about listening to the story in the second person (aka the insertion of “you” into the story)?
- Where do you find yourself in this story?
Still stuck in sin/the fall?
Experiencing the redemption found in Jesus through faith?
Living out the mission of the Church?
- What is the next step for you as you engage in God's mission?



REFLECTION 2

Telling Your Story in Light of God's Story

Over the last few weeks, we've been looking at the big picture of the Bible (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration) and how the mission of God has stretched throughout all of history. Now think about your own life. How could you tell your story as part of this mission?

Follow the prompts on the attached worksheet to write your story of Gospel transformation. Jot notes in the chart provided, but consider writing the whole story on a separate piece of paper.

Remember: God is the hero of His story (the Bible), which is why God should shine as the hero of our stories when we tell them. As you begin writing, reflect on who God is—His works, His character—and consider the moments in your life when you've felt especially close to or distant from Him.

TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR STORY

- Keep your story to about 3-5 minutes in length **max** (about 500 words)
- Use plain language that unbelievers would understand.
- Make Jesus look amazing! Don't ignore the rough parts of your story and keep God as the hero.
- Don't worry about what others will think. This is **your** story of God's work in your life!
- Don't try to squeeze in every truth about God or the Gospel in your story. Just hit the four major themes and fill in details later as people ask questions.

The next page is designed to be a worksheet with prompts to aid people in writing their story.

THEME	TIPS	WRITE YOUR STORY
Origin	<p>What formed your identity and worth before Jesus?</p> <p>Who or what most shaped your understanding of yourself before you became a disciple of Jesus?</p>	
Fall	<p>How was your relationship with God and others not the way God created it to be. Why?</p> <p>How was your character not reflective of God's?</p> <p>What types of sin were you falling into and what were the effects?</p>	
Broken Solutions	<p>What type of things did you do or use to try to "fix" your life without God's help?</p> <p>How were your "solutions" broken and unable to truly solve your deepest needs?</p> <p>When did you realize this?</p>	
Redemption	<p>How did you come to realize that only God could fix your problem with sin?</p> <p>How has your life been rescued and made new by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?</p> <p>Why has this been "good news" for you?</p>	
Restoration	<p>What has changed and is changing in your life now that you are free from the penalty of sin?</p> <p>How is God restoring your life and relationships from the effects of your past sins?</p> <p>How does the hope of God's future restoration give you power and strength today?</p>	



DISCUSS

- Have you ever considered telling your story in the same four-part structure that God chose to reveal His story within? Why might this be helpful?
- Are there parts of your story you're tempted to hide or gloss over? Remember that these things have already been redeemed by Jesus. He is already in process of re-creating them!
- Where in your life are you putting your hope in a different "hero" to save and restore you (self, spouse, boss, money, talents, etc.)? Confess this sin to God and ask Him to be your Rescuer. We need the redemptive work of Christ in our hearts daily!
- Who might God be calling you to share your story with? You could start with your group, but you should also share with non-believers as you grow in confidence!

ENGAGING IN THE MISSION OF GOD



A great way to engage in the mission of God is by utilizing your story to spread the Gospel. Over the next few weeks, we recommend the following steps as you respond to what you've learned in this study:

Step One: Write your story.

Step Two: Invite another member of your Life Group to review your story and help you improve its clarity and focus. Together, make sure the message of Gospel transformation is clear.

Step Three: Utilize your next Life Group meeting to take turns sharing your finished stories. Stick to a 3-5-minute timeframe per person, then review the clarity of Gospel transformation in each story.

Step Four: Identify someone outside of your Life Group to share your story with. While it's always best to share the Gospel face-to-face, you can also share the written version of your story.

Resources

Prompt questions adapted from Caesar Kalinowski, *The Gospel Primer* (Missio Publishing, 2013), p. 59.