

### **Everybody has a story.**

Acts 26:9-29 | Philippians 3:4-14

### **Every story matters to God.**

#### **Your story matters.**

- I used to believe.
- I encountered the one (Jesus).
- My life now (highs and lows).

#### **Your life-changing encounter with (your one). Their story matters to God.**

1 Peter 1:3-5 | Philippians 3:10-11 | Philippians 2:13

- Personal.
- Relational.
- Honest.
- Simple.
- Persistent.

Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. If you're not in a Life Group, consider taking that Next Step and joining one today! [www.seekreallife.com/groups](http://www.seekreallife.com/groups)

#### **Share your story**

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover from our time of worship together on Sunday?

Have you ever shared the story of your encounter with Jesus? If you have, what happened?

*Telling your faith story of how you met Jesus can be difficult or scary. So, take a moment with this exercise designed to help you. Think of your story as three pictures and describe below what each picture would show:*

Picture of your life before Jesus:

Picture of the turning point when you met Jesus:

Picture of your life after meeting Jesus:

#### **Connect to God's story**

What do these passages teach us about being an example to others?

1 Corinthians 4:6-7—

1 Corinthians 11:1—

1 Timothy 4:7-12—

**Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3.**

What are the things that stick out to Paul and his friends in their thankful prayer to God?

Why do they have these three great character qualities?

How can letting these qualities develop in you impact the one God has placed on your heart and anyone else in your circle of influence?

**Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7.**

Who empowers the story we share about Jesus and what is He doing as we are sharing this story?

*Often times we don't know in the moment the impact of our story. What role do you think perseverance and trust has played in sharing your story knowing you can't possibly see the entire picture? Why do you think it's easy to give up on people?*

*According to Paul, the things that should make Christians stand out are faith, hope, love, joy despite suffering, and a refusal to worship idols. Even as brand-new believers, the Thessalonians were already becoming known for these qualities. What about you? What are you known for? How can you become known for faith, hope or love?*

*Ask the Lord for an openness this week to see and respond to the opportunities He will give you to share your story!*

**“... you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”**

**- Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NET)**

**Together in prayer.**

As a church, let us come together in prayer.

- ◆ Pray for the homeless. Protection, direction, and transformation.
- ◆ Pray for our city! For God to reveal Himself in transforming ways.
- ◆ Pray for the general contractor to be available to work on Real Life Church remodel.
- ◆ Pray for the one. May God draw each person into a living relationship with Himself.
- ◆ Pray for my next step in reaching the one I am praying for.
- ◆ Pray for boldness to reach our community with the love of Jesus.

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