

SHOW  
“TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

**DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

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Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. - Colossians 4:2-6

# Welcome to the Journey

It hit me like a ton of bricks. It was a strong conviction. It was overwhelming.

The Spirit of God moved upon my heart that He wanted to do a new work in me: He wanted to reignite a passion for lost people.

Life is so daily. It's easy to get caught up in the regular demands and routines of life. Just doing life can be exhausting at times. But this was far more than tiredness. It was the Holy Spirit stirring and letting me know that I needed to have Him reignite a passion for lost people.

The journey you are about to begin - *Show & Tell: My Role in God's Redemptive Story* - was born out of that stirring and reinforced by Colossians 4:2-6. God's Word never ceases to amaze me. This passage opened a clear definable path for reigniting that passion. It's far more than a formula. It's about ...

- ... putting first things first. Everything begins with prayer.
- ... understanding your unique role in God's redemptive story.
- ... showing and telling (never either/or but always both/and) Jesus everywhere you go.
- ... learning how to answer the tough questions.
- ... sharing your story of what God is doing in your life.

My prayer is that this study will not be about a destination. Task-oriented people are all about getting to the end. No, this is about the journey, the lifestyle of building relationships, praying for lost people and learning how to tell your story.

As with every journey there may be detours or delays. There will be times of questioning. We may occasionally ask, "Is this worth it?" Don't get discouraged. If detoured, quickly get back on the path. Few things are more gratifying than doing that for which we were created.

You have a role. You have a place. You are uniquely gifted. God wants to use you as a part of His redemptive story.

Every journey starts with a single step. So now, let the journey begin.



*Pastor Dave*  
Dave Engbrecht is the Senior Pastor of Nappanee Missionary Church.

## Authors

Bob Andrews  
Donna Angle  
Kate Berkey  
Terry Bley  
Deandra Borkholder  
David Cummings  
Ryan Flemming  
Jeanne Focht  
Joe Focht  
Joy Holden  
Russ Hunsberger  
Staci Keter  
Justin Lamason  
Alison Lantz  
Kory Lantz  
Chris Lehane  
Kristy Mikel  
Lucio Ontiveros  
Rosa Ontiveros  
Derry Prenkert  
Janelle Prenkert  
Tim Veenstra  
Don Rohrer  
Jason Thompson  
Colin Urbanick

## Editors

Sandy Korenstra  
Linna Sommers  
Brenda Strohbehn

# USING THIS DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

This guide is meant to be a complementary resource to the teaching series *Show & Tell: My Role in God's Redemptive Story* at Nappanee Missionary Church. There are no right or wrong ways to use the guide. Its purpose is simply to enhance your journey through this series.

Each week of devotionals follows the theme of the teaching for that week. If you cannot be in attendance at Nappanee Missionary Church or miss a Sunday, you can watch sermons online at [nmconline.net/messages](http://nmconline.net/messages). There you will find archived sermons as well as live streaming video during Sunday morning worship services.

On the sixth day of each week, there is a page with space for thoughts, prayers, questions, or steps for that week. Each sixth day also includes two special elements:

- **Family Focus** - activities, creative ideas and challenges to complete as a family.
- **Out of the Box** - ideas to enhance your study, worship or prayer time by using all of your senses.

# WEEK 1 | DAY 1



## Praying Intentionally for the Lost

**READ:** John 17:20–26

Jesus doesn't ask us to tell the world about Him; He mandates it. Countless times in Scripture He coaches His followers: "Now you go..." He expects it of us because it is, after all, a life-changing Gospel. Why wouldn't we share it so that others can experience the same freedom and the hope in Christ that we've been given? I love the words of Jesus' last prayer for us, the believers, before He is taken away to be crucified: "I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them." (v. 26)

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What if we prayed as Jesus prayed: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message"? (v. 20) Who does God want to use you to reach with His message?
- How desperate are you to see those in your life who don't know Jesus find Him? "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." (v. 24)

### NEXT STEP:

- Write it out. Write out your own "My 5" and place those names where you will see them daily (car dashboard, bathroom mirror, refrigerator door, etc.). As you see those names throughout the day, take some time to pray for them—that God would begin stirring in their hearts and that you would have the opportunity to make Him known to them.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

As Jesus prayed in John 17, what if we prayed not only for those five people in our lives who don't know Jesus but also prayed believing that God wants to use their lives to reach out to another five people? As you pray for your "My 5" this week, pray boldly that they will encounter Jesus and pray also for those who will experience Christ's message of hope and love through them!

# WEEK 1 | DAY 2



## Eyes Wide Open to Opportunity

**READ:** Ephesians 5:15; Colossians 4:5

Paul uses the phrase “make the most of every opportunity” in his letters to the Colossians and the Ephesians. The Greek word used for “opportunity” is *kairos*. The base meaning of *kairos* is “a passing instant when an opening appears which must be driven through with force if success is to be achieved” (E. C. White). In essence, the word *kairos* speaks to acting or speaking at an appropriate time, in an appropriate way.

Prayer puts me in a position to be better aware of opportunity. My conversation with God as it relates to my family, my friends, my neighbors, my coworkers, and even those I’ve never met, helps open my eyes to the opportunities all around me. As I’m pressing into God’s heart for others through prayer, it keeps my eyes wide open to *kairos*. Make the most of every opportunity!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- On a piece of notebook or journal paper or in the space below, write down the following groupings: (1) family; (2) friends; (3) people I interact with regularly; and (4) the world. Pause for a moment and ask the Lord, “Who should I pray for today?” Write that person’s or group’s name down in the appropriate grouping. Then ask the Lord, “How should I pray for them today?” Write down what immediately comes to mind—it could be a word, a sentence, a picture, or a stream of thought. Don’t overthink it! Review your list at the end of the week. You may be surprised by how the Lord is making you more aware of the *kairos* all around you every day.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray for the person or group that you were prompted to pray for in the way that you were prompted to pray.

# WEEK 1 | DAY 3



## Devoted to Prayer

**READ:** Luke 10:2

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." (Colossians 4:2, NIV)

A devoted sportsman prepares for the hunt. He gathers proper supplies, cleans his gun, stocks up on ammunition, and plans his route. He may even lose sleep, thinking through his supply list and rehearsing how he will bag "the big one." He rises at 0-dark-30 to get situated in his tree stand before the deer start moving. He is patient, quiet and motionless, watching and listening, waiting and hoping to get a glimpse of the trophy buck. At the moment the deer steps into the clearing, the crack of the rifle assures the hunter's success.

In the same way the sportsman prepares for the hunt, believers can devote themselves to reaching people for Christ by praying intentionally. This is more than being earnest and sincere. Intentional praying means preparing our hearts on a daily basis to hear from God—gathering God's promises to learn and trust his character and looking for and listening to the lost people in our lives. Ask God for a burden to see those people changed by God's grace. Pray regularly for those whom God puts on your heart. Make it a habit to pray for this person at the same time every day or on a certain day of the week. Journal and mark the date of your prayers for this person. Rereading these entries fuels the passion to see God work and encourages you when hope seems dim.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How is your devotion to spending time with God and in His Word?
- What is your attitude toward the lost people in your sphere of influence?

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Ask God for a burden to pray for and love the lost ones in your sphere of influence.

Begin to journal prayers for the lost ones in your life.

The song "Lord of the Harvest" may be dated, but the lyrics are the perfect prayer of the believer wanting to pray intentionally for the lost: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_WN7ezuRYpA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WN7ezuRYpA)

# WEEK 1 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPTIVE STORY

## Intentional Prayer

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

All of us are keenly aware that we are to pray for the lost. But exactly how are we to accomplish this? Is it simply praying that they will be open to the message of the gospel when the opportunity comes? Today's passage informs us that our enemy intentionally blinds people to the Gospel. In light of this, let's intentionally pray that their eyes will not only be opened but that they will be drawn to the true Light who brings hope, freedom, salvation, and transformation. Here are a few ways to pray:

- Pray that whatever is blinding them to the Good News would be removed by the "True Light"
- Pray that the longings of an individual would be met with the reality that God is that he or she needs.
- Pray that they would be drawn to the goodness of God as they live in the reality of a world full of things that cannot fulfill.
- Pray that the pain in this world would point them to the healing God wants to bring.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- If you can, reflect back to a time when you were far from Christ. What would have been a fitting prayer that someone could have prayed for you? Determine how the message of the Gospel infiltrated your thoughts or life experiences and then use this pattern to formulate a prayer for your "5."

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Write the names of your "5" below (or on a sheet of paper), leaving a space between each name. Prayerfully consider each person's unique life experience. Now list a specific way to pray for each one for the blindness to be removed. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your limited view.

# WEEK 1 | DAY 5



## The Bucket List

**READ:** Ephesians 3:14–21

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20, NIV)

What have you dreamed of doing that has come true? As children, we often dream about becoming a teenager or getting a car. Young adults may dream about landing a rewarding job or finding Mr. or Mrs. Right. Older adults may dream about becoming grandparents or paying off the house. People dream of being famous or significant, of making a difference, of having love, of feeling secure, or of experiencing adventure. Our bucket lists for life are sometimes full to overflowing. Yet, it's likely that some dreams have become reality in your own life already, when once they seemed far off or impossible.

What if we were to develop a bucket list, of sorts, full of people we know and love who are lost? Maybe you already have a bucketful of lost people you want to see become devoted Jesus followers. Is it a bucket list or a wish list? People who are serious about accomplishing their bucket lists plan, prepare, save, sacrifice, and sometimes become consumed with completing the exhilarating, dangerous or exciting experience. To be intentional, we don't just wish and hope that our lost people "get saved." We plan and pray and take risks to lead and love these people to Christ. We dare to accomplish the impossible by asking God to redeem and change those bucket-list lives through our own—not for the glory of checking off a list but for the love and glory of God.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Who's on your bucket list? Who should be on your bucket list? Are there any "impossibles" on your bucket list? Write these names down.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Ask God to help you dream big concerning these people becoming devoted followers of Jesus. Pray like you're the only person on earth interceding for this person.



# WEEK 2 | DAY 1

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Declaring the Mystery

*written by Bob Andrews, director of the Devon Oasis Ministry Center in Edgewater, Ill.*

**READ:** Colossians 4:3; Colossians 2:2; 1 Timothy 3:16

We pray for opportunities to share our faith with others. Yet, what do we communicate once the opportunity is given? Paradoxically, Paul asked for prayer in order to “declare” the “mystery” of Christ. (Colossians 4:3) Declare a mystery?

A mystery is not something unknown, but it is truth infinitely known. It is clear, but it is beyond full comprehension. The Christian mystery is “Christ” Himself (Colossians 2:2), God “manifested in the flesh.” (1 Timothy. 3:16) The Creator has become part of creation in order to save all people. We understand this clearly, but it still blows our minds.

Declaring the mystery of the Gospel is more than telling facts; it is presenting a Person. Therefore, although our declaration of mystery certainly involves doctrinal realities, it goes beyond asking people to acquiesce to four “spiritual laws.” It is directly and unashamedly calling others to personally encounter the mystery of God in human flesh: Jesus Christ.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Who are three people for whom God has right now “opened the door” for me to share Christ?
- What are some practical ways I can “declare” the Gospel to others in addition to bringing them to church services?
- If Christ is both Creator and Savior of the whole world, then why might I fear sharing Him with those who appear so different? How might my views of others need to go deeper than their culture?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Create a prayer list of those you think God has already “opened the door” for you to share Christ. Pray regularly for those people by name and seek opportunities to share the Gospel.
- Intentionally have a conversation with someone who is from a different world religion. Try to identify common human needs and aspirations in that person’s life that Christ can ultimately address.
- Create a hospitable climate for sharing Christ. Try using the breaking of bread and hospitality—yes, food and fellowship—as the context for sharing your faith. Welcome others who need Christ to your home for dinner or out to tea. Notice the doors this climate opens!

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

“Father, in Your grace You have fully shown us Yourself in Your Son, Jesus Christ. We understand this by faith from your Scriptures; we experience it; and we will enjoy the journey of more intimately knowing what we believe until the day we see His face. “Lord, give us clarity when we speak about You to others, but help us not reduce the Gospel to a catalog of facts. Help us to share Christ Himself! And help us to speak without fear to the nations: Your Son is the Creator of all people, the origin of their deepest desires; and He is the Savior of the world, the destiny of all their dreams. Please open the door for us to share this good news. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen!”

# WEEK 2 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPTIVE STORY

## Reluctant Obedience

*written by Ryan Flemming, pastor of Revolution Church in Gary, Ind.*

**READ:** Acts 9:1-18

If we are totally honest, some people in our lives are much easier to engage for the sake of Christ than others. I recently had one such person that I would have rather seen move away than for me to reach out to him since he was heavily involved in the crime plaguing my neighborhood. Yet I sensed God asking me to pray for him and for an opportunity to interact more than a head nod. And God opened a door to his life through a simple BBQ my family was hosting at our home and a hesitant invitation as he walked down the sidewalk. Though he did not show up at the BBQ, months later I was able to share the Gospel with him on the street as a result of God answering my prayer and my reluctant obedience.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Do I show by my attitude and actions that everyone deserves to meet Jesus?
- Who are those challenging people God may be asking you to pray specifically for an opportunity for you to share the love of Christ with them?
- How might God use your reluctant obedience?
- What are some simple things that you can offer to be used by the Lord as bridge-building tools (i.e., my home BBQ, a simple hello, yard work)?

# WEEK 2 | DAY 3

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Somewhere to Serve

*written by Staci Keter, former director of the AGC Baby Centre in Kenya, Africa.*

**READ:** John 4:35

In the summer of 2013, my family and I had just returned to the United States after nearly a decade of ministry in Kenya. In struggling to know how best to fit into ministry in America, we feared that we would not find the same kinds of opportunities that we had experienced in Kenya. We continually prayed that Jesus would open the right doors for ministry. After just a few short months of being here, my husband and I were blessed to join a team that was going to minister alongside Bob and Lynne Andrews in inner-city Chicago for a family fun day that had a carnival-type atmosphere. My job was mostly painting fingernails, during which I had this conversation with a girl, who was about eleven or twelve years old.

Me: So, I saw that you just came from the story time. Did you learn anything new or different today?

Girl: Yes.

Me: What was it?

Girl: The part where Jesus died on the cross and bled for our sins!

Me: What did you think of that?

Girl: I think that's amazing and pretty wonderful really!

This was not someone in a remote mountain village in a far-flung corner of the earth! This was just barely over 100 miles from home—and she had never heard that Jesus had bled for her sins! Oh the precious significance of living that moment with her and discussing what she would do with that seed of truth placed in her heart! I found myself so convicted by my doubts about “fitting in” with ministry in the United States—and even more so by her fresh amazement at what Jesus has done for us.

How many times have we prayed for opportunities to share the message of Jesus with others, all the while telling ourselves, “In four more months (or 4,000 miles from here or after I’ve taken four more evangelism classes) it will be the right time, the right place, the right situation for me to share”? Yet, Jesus simply tells us, “Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How often are you amazed at what Jesus did in shedding His blood for your sins? Has salvation become common or ordinary?
- What do you picture in your mind when you think of sharing your faith with someone? Is it far or near? Is it now or later? What makes a situation ideal for sharing about Jesus? Take some time to ask Jesus to take those ideals and replace them with a vision of where He is already working around you (where the field is already ripe for harvest) and to seek how He might have you join Him.
- What is holding you back from sharing in the harvest with Jesus? Check at the Ministry Center for possible opportunities to reach out alongside people like Bob and Lynne Andrews or in some other place locally, regionally, or internationally.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for Your blood that washes us and gives us victory over sin and death! Give us Your vision for how to share Your love with others wherever we are. Open our eyes to the harvest, Lord, and help us to see where You are working. Give us the

# WEEK 2 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Are You a Tidal Wave or a Raindrop?

*written by Kory & Alison Lantz, directors of Transformation Ministries in South Bend, Ind.*

**READ:** Romans 12:12

When we first moved to the city, we had high hopes to see God do big things. We prayed and asked God where to start. We did what any logical youth-minded couple would do: start a youth group at our neighborhood church. Instead of sharing the Gospel, we were breaking up fights, fixing holes punched in the wall, and getting cussed out by kids. It was then that God spoke to us. Were we trying to be a tidal wave for Him or a raindrop? A tidal wave wants to see big things happen quickly and have crazy stories to tell. A raindrop is small, but there are a lot of them. Raindrops are small investments in someone's life that build and deepen a relationship over time. We stopped the youth group and asked Jesus to show us a few kids that needed deeper investment. We built relationships and shared the Gospel with them through our words and our lives. Jesus isn't asking us to be a tidal wave; He's asking us to be a raindrop. He will be the One to tell the story. He's just asking for our obedience.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- As Christians, why do we desire to have the tidal-wave experience? What are the differences between being a tidal wave vs. being a raindrop?
- Why is it important to have a relationship with those we share Christ with? Why are relationships hard?
- If you were a nonbeliever, how would you want someone to share Christ with you? What would you be drawn to?
- When dealing with relationships, how does Romans 12:12 encourage you?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Identify one person you can begin to share Christ with through your life and words.
- Mother Teresa says, "Do small things with great love." List some practical examples of small things you can do to invest in nonbelievers.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for using me to be a part of Your Kingdom plan. Help me to remember that You are the Savior, and I am to be obedient. Lead me toward the person You want me to share with. Give me courage to share Your great love with others. Amen.

# WEEK 2 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Take Time to Pray

*written by Lucio & Rosa Ontiveros, church planters in El Millon, Mexico.*

**READ:** Colossians 4:2–4

One of the most important things in our Christian life is our communion with God in prayer. With that, we gain great victories and triumphs. Paul describes in Colossians that through prayer, things can be accomplished. Paul knew and experienced that victory and triumph for himself.

We see this in the area where God has us serving—in Ciudad Juarez. We have seen people obtain victory and triumph through prayer. For back-to-school season we passed out more than five thousand items, including five hundred backpacks. Not once we were stopped at the border for bringing in so many items, and there were even items that they should have charged us extra for or that they could have even taken from us. We actually prayed and asked God for the correct time to go through with the items and also to show us the lane He wanted us to go through. God showed His power: we were able to cross the border with everything! With prayer, everything is possible.

We would not be able to continue in this ministry if we didn't pray or if we didn't have people praying for us. Never underestimate the power of prayer. Trust in Him, not in yourself. Take everything—absolutely everything—to Him in prayer, and He will accomplish His work.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How many times have desperation or anxiety come into your mind with questions like: How? When? Where?
- Is that anxiety helping, or would it be better to pray about it?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take everything to Him in prayer, and He will answer! Everything is under His control. When the prayer is answered, you can say, “To Him be the glory!”

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray for God to show you the perfect time and the perfect way to reach out to your “5.”

# WEEK 2 | DAY 6

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

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God uses people to reach other people. How are you showing Jesus to your family? How are you showing Jesus to others?



**CHALLENGE:** Have each family member find something that is a favorite of theirs and share it with the family. For some it could be a fishing pole or a book. Talk about what it says about them. Example: if it's a fishing pole then it tells others they like to fish, etc. What does it tell others when we choose certain words to say or music to listen to or books to read? Look up James 1:22 , John 13:35 & I Corinthians 15:3-8 for ways you can show people that you love Jesus. Pray and ask God to help you show other people you love God by what you do & say.

**EXTRA:** Look up the song *Shine!* by Northpoint Kids!

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Out of the **BOX**

**MEMORIZE COLOSSIANS 4:2-6.** Make it a goal to commit Colossians 4:2-6 to memory over the time you take part in this devotional journey. Here are some tips to help you along the way:

- Try to memorize one verse a week for the next five weeks.
- Put each verse on a notecard with the reference on the opposite side. Mix them up and work to memorize each verse in correlation with its reference point. This way you can know the passage as a whole but also each verse.
- Write or print the passage and put it in a prominent place where you'll regularly see it like your refrigerator, your shower, etc.
- Commit with someone else to memorize the passage and quiz each other.

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# WEEK 3 | DAY 1



## Let Them See Jesus in Me

**READ:** I John 3:11–24

“And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.” (v. 23)

Describe yourself on the job. Or maybe this is easier to answer: describe your coworkers. It seems that it’s much easier to spot greed, pride, selfishness, laziness, judgmentalism, hatred, gossip, the desire to get ahead at all costs, and uncharitable behavior in others.

Words about how we should live as Christians, what we learned in our devotions or from the sermon, or stories about mission trips mean nothing to lost coworkers if our lives don’t exhibit the love of Christ. Believers, if you regularly act judgmental and selfish, gossip and backbite, and manipulate work situations for your own gain, then keep Christ to yourself. When we conduct ourselves in this way, we are called hypocrites, and we harm the Gospel message of Christ.

People don’t need judgment from believers. It’s God’s job to judge. People need to know that a Savior loves them and offers grace to live a changed life. What is the key to gaining credibility to be heard? Love that comes from God. We are the fragrance of Christ to the perishing. (2 Corinthians 2:14–3:1–6) Pointing others to Christ comes from living a life consistently loving others and from acting on love’s requirements by forgiving, sacrificing, and being quick to listen and slow to anger.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Write some descriptive words that you think show how you act at work or outside your home.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Read about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5: 22–26. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you keep in step with Him and to infuse your life with His fruit at home and at work.

“Father, fill me with Your Holy Spirit today. Make the fruit of Your Spirit grow in me. Help evidence of Your presence in my life make a difference in my conduct. Help people see Jesus in how I speak and act and love.”

# WEEK 3 | DAY 2



## Paralyzing Fear or Platform-Leaving Faith?

**READ:** Matthew 14:22–32

Do you remember the playground sets with the pole that you slide down from a high platform? For a young child, the height from the platform to the ground seems so high that it can become paralyzing. As you look down, all you see is fear. It starts to become overwhelming to the point where you think about turning back and going the other way. You're stuck! But what if you had someone to help you through it—someone that you trust? It could be your mom, dad, or another person you trust. They help ease you down that first time, and you see that it isn't that bad after all.

We face similar situations in our walk with Christ: situations where we become paralyzed by something like fear. It's in those moments that we need to let go, reach out our hand to Jesus, and trust in His help through that situation.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What are the things that are currently causing me to lose my focus on Jesus, and how can I remove those things from my life?
- What situation have I been facing recently from which Jesus has called me out into deep water to trust Him in faith?
- What is an area that I need to fully trust Jesus with right now?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take some time to listen to "Oceans" by Hillsong United. Reflect on today's passage as you listen to this song. Write a letter to Jesus, asking Him to help increase your trust and faith in Him in the current situation you're facing and sharing with Him your fears, the things that are distracting you, or the things that are currently blocking your focus on Him.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray and ask Jesus for help in managing or eliminating the distractions and things that you wrote down that have prevented you from focusing and trusting fully in Him. Ask Him for strength to take that step of faith in trusting Him to help you through the situation or trial that you are currently facing.

# WEEK 3 | DAY 3



## Authentic Christianity

**READ:** I Corinthians 13

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God... We love because he first loved us." (I John 4:7, 19, NIV)

Brother Lawrence, a seventeenth-century monk said in his book *The Practice of the Presence of God*, "I began to live as if there were no one but God and myself in the world." How can we live like this—in great communion with God—and still participate in the Great Commission? It would seem that this kind of separatist living would be contrary to reaching out to the lost.

Participating in reaching our world for Christ must originate from a heart actively connected with God, a heart in love with Him, a heart that obeys Him. This kind of living fosters a love for people. I John 1 says, "The man who says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him." We all know from life experiences that people who lie are not credible. Lost people know when our fuel isn't love. They see when our actions don't line up with our words. They take note of our disharmony with other believers. John goes on to say, "But if anyone obeys his Word, God's love is truly made complete in Him." How are we filled with authentic love for the lost? By loving God and obeying his Word.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What are some things that you can do regularly that will deepen your communion with God?
- What behaviors and attitudes in your life have God shown that you need to change?
- What are ways that you can show tangible love to the lost around you?
- Read I John. I John 4:20 says, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar." Begin to speak well of brothers and sisters in Christ. Begin to show love in tangible ways to the lost in your neighborhood, home, and workplace.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

"Change my heart, O God. Make it ever new. Change my heart, O God. May I be like You."

# WEEK 3 | DAY 4



## How Is the Message Perceived?

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 2:1–10

I have often wondered how people perceive me personally, but lately I wonder how people perceive my message. I pray that the message I live and preach is centered on the Gospel and my Savior, Jesus Christ, but I wonder if I communicate that message with competence. Do I come off pompous, fake, and condemning? Or do I come off transparent, full of grace, and accepting? Paul writes to the Corinthian church, clarifying that his message was not powerful because of eloquent words or because of his wisdom. Instead he proclaims that the Gospel is a testimony to the power of God. The grace and freedom that Jesus Christ offers us through His sacrifice on the cross is the power of the Gospel! The indwelling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit that comes from a personal relationship with God is the power of the Gospel!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How do people perceive the message that I live and preach?
- Do I demonstrate the power of the Spirit? If so, how?
- When sharing the Gospel, do I focus more on the need for forgiveness or on the freedom that Christ provides? Why?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Let's find out exactly how people perceive the message you live/preach. The goal is to ask five to ten individuals who are around you often if they see you living out the power of the Gospel consistently. Choose people from different circles to get the best results: maybe a family member or two, a few people from work or school, and a few friends. Don't be defensive; simply receive what they say and make the necessary changes.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Spend some time praying for God's wisdom and that He would demonstrate the Spirit's power through your words this week.

# WEEK 3 | DAY 5



## The Importance of Accountability

**READ:** 2 Samuel 12:1–8

When we think of David, some of the things that usually come to mind are that he was a king and that he defeated the giant Goliath with just a slingshot and some stones. He was fearless and dedicated to helping others know about the power of his God.

We might also remember one of the tougher moments in David's life: when he took Bathsheba to be his wife and devised a plan to have her husband killed in the line of duty. How could David, a fearless giant killer, become so blind that he had someone killed? It all began with a simple step toward seeking something that David desired for himself. Just one small step took him down a painful journey.

Just like David, sometimes we don't realize that we have become focused on self instead of on God's will and plan for us.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Has God seemed distant or silent to you lately?
- What has your focus been on lately: things of self or things of God?
- Have you taken any steps that have started you down a path of sin?
- Where do you need to allow God to expose a flaw in your focus so that you can be free to follow Him more closely?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Who is someone in your life that can play a similar role as Nathan did to David in today's passage—someone you trust and who can ask you the tough questions to help you stay focused on God and not on the desires of self? Come up with the name of that person and ask him or her to meet with you soon. Give that person permission to ask you the tough questions so that you don't overlook areas where you've become blind.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Ask God to reveal a person you can start walking with to ask you the tough questions in your life—who will help keep you focused on Christ. Ask God to open your eyes to any areas where you've focused more on self and less on Him. Ask Him to help you start the journey back to the path He has for you.



# WEEK 4 | DAY 1

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Sharing Your Testimony

**READ:** Acts 22:1–21

One of the best ways to craft your own personal story/testimony is to follow the example Paul set for us in Scripture when he shared his own story in Acts 22:1–21. It goes like this:

- Before I met Christ (or gave Him complete control) – Paul shared about his life before Christ in Acts 22:1–5.
- How I met Christ (or gave Him complete control) – Paul shared how he became a follower of Christ in Acts 22:6–11.
- After I accepted Christ (or gave Him complete control) — Paul explained how becoming a believer changed his life in Acts 22:12–21.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What was your life like before you met Christ (or gave Him complete control)?
- How did you come to meet Christ (or give Him complete control)?
- How has your life changed since accepting Christ (or giving Him complete control)?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Write out your story this week. Aim to keep it short enough that it can be shared within three minutes. At three minutes, it's easily something that you can put into a conversation without it becoming a monologue. Then, work on memorizing your story until it becomes natural.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness in my life. Thank You for meeting me and changing me. Give me the courage to share my story with my ‘5.’”

# WEEK 4 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

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MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Sharing Your Redemptive Story

**READ:** Colossians 4:5

If you're like me, you read the second half of today's verse and thought, "So, I have to constantly be looking for openings in conversation with non-Christians to talk about God? Is that what Paul means?" He absolutely does not. Paul is not saying that we should pounce with abandon on every silence and lull in conversation to talk about God with nonbelievers. Paul cautions us to be wise in the way we act toward them. Being overly eager, when not tempered with godly wisdom is like a skunk in a restaurant: unappetizing—and smelly. Through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we are able to see the opportunities in relationships when talking of God's love and plan to actually redeem a person's view of Jesus and Christianity.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Think of a time when you experienced the "skunk in the restaurant." How was Christianity portrayed in that experience?
- Have you been wise in bringing your faith into conversation at the proper times with your "5?"
- If you've seen already the opportunities come and go for you to share Jesus with one or more of your "5," why have you not shared? What is holding you back?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Prayerfully create a list of specific times and days, if possible, when you are in direct contact with one or more of your "5" people and when you would have a prime opportunity to directly act out your faith or share it. Keep this list in a place where it is visible to you every morning as a constant reminder to wisely "make the most of every opportunity" that day.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Ask God to bless you with the wisdom to know when the proper time and opportunity presents itself with one or all of your "5." Ask Him for boldness and courage to speak when the Holy Spirit prods you.

# WEEK 4 | DAY 3

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## What's Your Story?

**READ:** John 9:1–25

Everyone has a story. You have a story, and your story is unique. The great thing about your story is that no one can argue with it. Only you have experienced it. Thus, your story is powerful.

Another way to share your story would be to focus on just one aspect of your story since accepting Christ, such as when He brought you through a difficult time (an illness, loss of a job, depression, rebellious child, financial debt, etc.).

The reality is that many of the people around you were placed there by God in order to allow you to share your story with them so that they too might come to faith in Christ.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Who did Jesus allow to hear about and to witness the healing of the blind man in John 9?
- In John 9, what were some of the blind man's responses to who Jesus was when questioned about him?
- What words did the blind man use in John 9:25 to describe what had happened to him?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Make a list of some of the difficult experiences that you've been through in life and how God has come through for you. Spend some time reflecting on how faithful the Lord has been to you during those times. Thank Him for His faithfulness and allow Him to show you how He wants to use those difficult experiences to help you reach your "5" for Christ.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

"Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing me to have my own 'I was blind but now I see!' story. Give me the courage to share my story with others. Help me to remember that I don't have to have all the answers for You to use me in a mighty way."

# WEEK 4 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Pray before You Share

**READ:** Colossians 4:4

Since God became real to me eight years ago, I've tried to share the experience and the truth of it with others. I've struggled, however, in actually delivering that message to those I most care about because I stumble over my words, say the wrong things, and end up creating a very poor image of who God truly is. I forget that the essential and most powerful component of sharing my faith is being covered in prayer. The apostle Paul, of all people, asked for prayer that he would represent the Gospel clearly. Without the power of the Holy Spirit that is pulled from in prayer, we share based on our own knowledge and strength. I don't know about you, but I don't want to try to share my faith without God's help ever again and risk turning someone away from God.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Do you rely on your own knowledge and discernment when sharing your faith?
- Have you stopped to pray for wisdom in what you share?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Who do you know that would agree to continually lift you up in prayer for the purpose of communicating your faith? Prayerfully make a list of people to ask to pray for you on a regular basis. Now, contact them in the next 24 hours.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Who is someone that you can pray for to have the wisdom and discernment to share their faith? Stop and pray for this person to have not only wisdom and discernment but also courage and willingness to eagerly share the truth of God.

# WEEK 4 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPTIVE STORY

## They Are Watching

**READ:** Ephesians 5:15–16; Matthew 5:16

Whether you do or do not realize it, they are watching you. They are your coworkers, family members, teammates, classmates, and neighbors. They work at the gas station, the coffee shop, the hardware store, and the supermarket. They attend the same activities and games that you do.

And they are watching. Watching how you respond. Watching how you treat your children, your spouse, your neighbors, your coworkers, and your boss. Watching how you treat the server at your favorite restaurant, the barista at the coffee shop, and that person that everyone else always tries to avoid. They also pay close attention to how you navigate life's difficult times. They wonder how you can have joy in the midst of struggle, find peace in the middle of chaos, and keep a good attitude when the boss is being a jerk.

They watch. They wonder. They wish. They wish they could have what you have. And one day they may ask you—ask you about your faith, about your God, about your church. That day could be today. It is in that moment that you will have the opportunity to share how God's redemptive story has intersected and forever changed your story. There's incredible power in that story. Show it. Tell it.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Who do you regularly interact with that could be watching you? List them here.
- List some of the things, both positive and negative, that they might see by watching you (i.e., I am patient with others).
- How can you reinforce God's grand redemptive story through the way you live this week?

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

"God, thank you for how you are at work in my life. I ask that you would give me the ability to live today in such a way that those that I encounter see you in me."



# WEEK 5 | DAY 1

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## What Is Holding You Back?

**READ:** Hebrews 4:7

A few years ago, when sitting and talking with a friend, I felt God prompting me to ask how I could pray for her. Immediately, fear overtook me. I wrestled with God for a half hour before finally caving in. The conversation that followed was powerful. By asking one question, I found out that her aunt had cancer, and that God seemed so distant. We prayed together, and later, she told me that conversation was a turning point.

These kinds of conversations are abundant in our everyday life. God gives us opportunities, nudging us to follow His leading. Many times I find that it's easy to ignore His voice. Yet, I remember my friend, and I ask myself, what if: What if I had ignored God? What if I had listened to fear? And I pray that the Holy Spirit constantly softens my heart to His voice.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What holds me back from saying “yes” to God?
- What are the opportunities that I am passing up each day because of fear?
- What fears do I need to surrender to Christ?

### NEXT STEPS:

- On a separate sheet of paper, write out the different things that cause you to harden your heart to the opportunities God is putting in front of you. These could be fears, insecurities, activities that keep you too busy to hear His voice, pride struggles, etc. When you have finished writing them, surrender them to God. Take time to listen to what He might have to say. When you are finished, rip the paper up and throw it away.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

“God, thanks for all the opportunities you daily put in front of me. Sorry for the times I don't take advantage of them. Help me to see them and give me divine courage to follow Your leading. I surrender what is keeping me from following You. Remind me of the ways that You have equipped me in the conversations that I will have with others. Help me to make the most of every opportunity.”

# WEEK 5 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Where Is the Salt?

**READ:** Matthew 5:13–16

How many people do you interact with in an average day? Your answer is going to vary greatly depending on where you live, where you work, how verbal you are, and scads of other variables. It is safe to say, however, that all of us will have some conversations throughout the course of a day. Those are significant opportunities.

A study of where Jesus intersected with people found that He met them in the temple six times, in the synagogue four times, and in the streets 122 times. When Jesus tells us to be salt and light, for most of us that means right where we are, not overseas in a foreign country. Becoming more sensitive to opportunities throughout the course of our day is the first step in making Jesus a regular part of our conversations.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Make a list of all that salt does.
- How do you flavor your home? Workplace? Friendships?
- In Jesus' illustration of a lamp on a stand, who receives the benefit of the light?
- Do you think that was an intentional part of the story? Why or why not? What does that say to you about your light?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Make it a goal to speak the name Jesus to someone today. Create a reminder of Jesus that is always with you. It could be Jesus printed on a card and carried in your pocket or an alarm on your phone or something on the wallpaper of your computer—whatever works for you.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray for the Holy Spirit to make you more sensitive, courageous, and opportunistic in mentioning Jesus throughout your day.

# WEEK 5 | DAY 3

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Meaningful Conversations

**READ:** Romans 10:11–15

As you read through this passage, spend some time meditating on the gravity of this passage. There are people in this world that will never hear the Gospel. Their lives may never be transformed unless we have those meaningful conversations! There is no doubt that this reality grieves God, making those meaningful conversations all the more important. Though those conversations may be tough and uncomfortable, we can see in this passage that they are necessary, so learning to do them is vital! God's plan for reaching those people is through us! We are plan A and there is no plan B.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Meaningful conversations require intentionality and boldness. List some areas of your life where you need to step out in boldness to have those meaningful conversations.
- Think about how you came to know the Lord. Who has been your spiritual parent? How has his or her investment in your life led you to want to give your life to God as a living sacrifice?
- Based on how those people have influenced you, how do you need to change in order to fulfill that investment in others?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Carve out some time to just meditate on your “5.” Send at least one of them a text, a call, a letter, or an e-mail and ask to get some coffee, grab a bite to eat, or do something fun! Find ways to create space for intentional conversations this week!

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

“Father, I pray that this week You would do an incredible work in my “5,” and that You would continue to soften their hearts and transform their lives. I pray that You would create divine encounters for meaningful and spiritual conversations with them. Equip me with the tools and words necessary to dive in with them. Prepare my heart for the work You want to do in me. I love You, Father, but teach me to love you more. Amen.”

# WEEK 5 | DAY 4



## Now I Can See

**READ:** John 9:1–34

Anyone who encounters Jesus is changed. The blind man in John 9 was instantaneously and dramatically transformed. Who would not want to tell the story of sight restoration? Yet, if Jesus is involved, there may well be resistance to telling any story, no matter how remarkable.

The blind man was bullied by the powerful religious leaders and thrown under the bus by his own family. Every positive opinion expressed about Jesus was opposed. In the end, the one thing that was irrefutable was the blind man's personal experience. "Once I was blind. Now I can see." The most important story you have is the one that is personal. How did Jesus change you?

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Practice telling your story in two minutes or less. Then, take it to the next level. Find someone who will role-play with you, asking questions, providing opposition to your story. Through the course of the exercise, stick to what Jesus has done in your life.

### **A CALL TO PRAYER:**

Pray that God would regularly remind you of the transformation that has taken place in you and that you would be aware of the ongoing difference that He makes in your life.

# WEEK 5 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Transforming Conversations

**READ:** John 4:1–45

Today's passage is pretty hefty; however, it is one of the most powerful stories in the New Testament of Jesus fully embodying both grace and truth! We find Jesus wearied from His journey at Jacob's well in Samaria. While at the well, Jesus begins talking to this Samaritan woman. Instead of turning around and ignoring her or just simply saying "Hi" and being on with His day, Jesus instead pauses to have a conversation that transforms her life! Jesus takes the time to meet this woman where she is, using the language she uses, in order to tell her about the "Living Water." Because He pauses to see this woman and make it a point to have a meaningful conversation with her, Jesus was able to transform her life. Not only does He transform her life but the woman goes on to tell the other Samaritan people about Jesus and what He did for her, and that, in turn, transforms the lives of many others. Meaningful conversations begin a movement of something so much greater than we can ever imagine. In fact we can indirectly impact people, even if we have never met them! Who knows who you can transform by simply stepping out and having a meaningful conversation with someone!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Meaningful conversations with certain people can honestly feel like a pain at times; however, they can also be the most fulfilling. Think about those people who you might have the hardest time talking with. How can you engage with them this week?
- How can a meaningful conversation this week make an impact on someone?
- Jesus went to a place that was uncomfortable. Where can you go sometime this month that might be uncomfortable but allow for incredible conversations?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHZiR7qCwSE>

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Father, I pray that you would shape me to look more and more like Your Son. I pray that You would chisel away all that doesn't look like You. Lord, I pray that You would break my heart for the areas of this work that break Yours. Give me eyes to see those people that need to hear about You this week and allow me to see that the "random" conversations can bring about transformation. Allow me to be Your mouthpiece this week as I engage my "5" and this world.



# WEEK 6 | DAY 1

# SHOW “TELL”

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MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Fear Not

**READ:** Acts 4:29–31

I love stories of people who stepped up to the plate and hit the ball out of the park when it came time to speak up for God. I wish that were true of me. However, it feels like I miss more opportunities than I succeed at. It's often because of this one-eyed monster called fear. I'm afraid I won't say the right thing, my words won't be accepted, I won't be liked—and the list goes on. I'm reminded that my fear is often minimized when I turn to God in prayer and remember that He is with me and will help me know what to say.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Am I discouraged or disappointed because of past failures to share my faith?
- What am I most fearful of when it comes to being bold for God?
- Do I feel like I have to do it on my own, or do I rely on God?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Try this: Go where no one else can hear you and yell, “I WILL BE BOLD!”
- Write down on a piece of paper three or four things you would want someone to know about what Jesus has done in your life.
- Pray right now for God's help in the next opportunity to share your faith.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Lord, I am asking for Your help as I step up to the plate this week to be bold for You. Help me to continue to pray for the individuals in my life that need You. Keep my eyes and ears alert for opportunities to share You with them.

# WEEK 6 | DAY 2



## Facing Our fear in Divine Appointments

**READ:** Acts 17:24–28

How do we handle these divine appointments when they present themselves? Our biblical understanding of God helps us to realize that God is sovereign and all-knowing. His ability to see and understand all that we experience enables Him to arrange divine appointments in anyone's life. Today's passage helps us realize God's desire to present opportunities for mankind to reach out and find Him. God's involvement in a person's life is too difficult for us to analyze, so we shouldn't try to figure it all out. We simply recognize His hand in drawing people to Himself, and with a step of faith, we walk into the appointment. He can use any situation—we don't need to understand it all; we simply need to recognize His providence and identify an opportunity when we see it. These appointments are not ours to analyze, decipher, and then determine a strategy. Leave these matters to God and simply be ready to give a reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15).

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Do you become nervous when you realize that you are in a divine appointment? Why?
- If you truly believe that God providentially works in these divine appointments, how does this diminish your fear and give you courage?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize this verse: "For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you'" (Isaiah 41:13, NIV).
- Visually place it somewhere to remind you that God's hand is with you.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray and acknowledge God's ability to determine all the details and strategies for divine appointments. Then ask Him for the ability to trust Him for the words and courage needed to walk into that appointment with boldness from the Holy Spirit.

# WEEK 6 | DAY 3



## Anticipate a Divine Appointment

**READ:** Isaiah 41:10

There's nothing more powerful than a promise from God! Here's the good news: He always keeps His promise and never lets us down. I need that kind of confirmation in my life, especially when I feel inadequate and fearful. One of the most common times inadequacy and fear in my life occur is when divine opportunities to share come my way. I'm excited for God to use me, but I'm often fearful of knowing exactly what to do or say. I've discovered that a great start to each day is to ask God to prepare me for any divine appointments that might come my way and to be reminded that I'm not alone. God is with me! He will help me and give me strength.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What is the last divine appointment God brought my way?
- What am I most fearful of when it comes to divine appointments?
- Am I on the lookout for divine appointments in my life?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize Isaiah 41:10.
- Ask at least two people this week about the last divine appointment in their lives.
- Write these words on a Post-it note or 3x5 card: "I'm expecting a divine appointment today!" Put it in a place where you'll see it several times today.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Lord, thanks for the reminder that I'm not alone when it comes to the divine appointments that You bring my way. I'm going to rely on Your help and strength today. Amen.

# WEEK 6 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## The Importance of Confident Conversations

**READ:** Acts 8:26–40

I was in a coffee shop recently with a friend of mine. The tables were pretty close together, so it was pretty hard not to hear or observe what others were doing. A gentleman leaned over and made a comment about the interesting conversations that he was hearing as he sat in the coffee shop.

Through the course of the conversation with this man, my friend and I learned a ton about this gentleman, merely by asking follow-up questions to the things that he was telling us about himself. It was very evident that this was a divine appointment that God had waiting for us.

Although he didn't accept Jesus in that moment, we could tell that he was wrestling with the question of who Jesus really is. I was reminded again that it is the Holy Spirit who will draw people to Himself; He just asks that we be willing speak the words that He'll give us.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Who was it that sent Philip on his new journey? Do you think that he was nervous or afraid of what was awaiting Him on that journey? Why or why not?
- What are the things that make you nervous or afraid when you think about a divine appointment God may have waiting in store for you? How can this passage help you become more confident when faced with a divine appointment?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Talking to strangers can be very uncomfortable for us. However, most people are very receptive and open to conversations with other people. Take time this week to start a conversation with someone you don't know. The best thing that we can do is listen! Listen to the person's story and ask proper follow-up questions. This will be an exercise that will prepare you to become more confident in the conversations God may have for you again in the future.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray and ask God to allow you to see the people around you through His eyes. Who is it that He is trying to draw closer to Himself? How might He want to use you? Pray that He will give you the confidence to be used and the words to share with those individuals.

# WEEK 6 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Divine Appointments

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 3:5–8

Your life and your interaction with others reveals God's redemptive story. But what happens when someone's response to that divine appointment is met with inaction, or worse, a negative reaction? At times we are afraid that the well-placed words of our testimony to God's story in us will be met with rejection. For some, this creates a hesitation to share our story. We might even start to question if we are truly meant to share with that person at all. We worry: What if someone rejects the message of hope? What if they are offended? What if they mock my faith? What if they become angry with me? What if I don't say the right thing? Unknown results can paralyze us. Lingering fears fill us with worry. Today's passage clearly indicates to us who is responsible for a person's growth. We are not responsible for how others react to the Gospel—that is between them and God. It is not your concern. Their growth is not your responsibility. God brings the growth; we simply plant the seed, water it, or tend to the plant. Our obedience to become involved in the divine appointment is what God desires. That is our responsibility! Don't be concerned with the outcome; simply obey the call to your part of the divine appointment and trust God with the rest.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How someone responds to a divine appointment is out of our control. God asks us to plant or water; He brings the growth. How does this realization enable you to boldly step into a divine appointment? How could this build your faith or trust in God? Be specific.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take some time to praise God for the growth He has brought to your life. Express your gratitude to Him for those who have planted and watered the seeds of your faith. Consider penning the words and using them to remind you of God's goodness and faithfulness.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray that anyone's resistance to the message of the Gospel will not deter you from your part in divine appointments. Ask God to clearly reveal to you your part, to enable you to do it well, and for the ability to trust God for the rest, believing that He will draw that person to Himself and help him or her to grow.

# WEEK 6 | DAY 6

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

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Read over the story of Phillip & the Ethiopian Man in Acts 8:26-40. Sometimes God wants you to be exactly where you are for a very special reason.



**CHALLENGE:** Find different kinds of eye glasses or drinking glasses that you have around your house. Take turns looking through them. Sometimes we see only the things we want to see, but Philip was ready and willing to do whatever came up. God told him to go to the chariot and he did! Be on the lookout this week for opportunities to show God's love to those around you. Every day when you are praying as a family, take time to share the opportunities God gave you.

**EXTRA:** Look up the song *Be Number One* by deliberateKids!

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Out of the **BOX**

**PRAISE THROUGH THE ALPHABET.**

Let's praise Him today for who "HE IS." Using each letter of the alphabet, come up with a word you could use to finish this sentence, "GOD, YOU ARE..." (be creative with X)

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# WEEK 7 | DAY 1

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Overcoming Insecurity

**READ:** John 1:35–42; 6:1–10; and 12:20–22

The Bible makes it clear that as fully committed disciples of Jesus, we are all to be witnesses (Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 3:15). Just as clearly, the Holy Spirit gives some people special gifts of evangelism (Ephesians 4:11). While we may not be able to evangelize the total stranger sitting next to us on an airplane, we can all help move people closer to Jesus. There are as many ways to do that as there are people.

Andrew, though not a part of the inner circle of Peter, James, and John, faithfully brought people to Jesus. Sometimes he was pretty insecure in doing it. Sometimes he wasn't sure he was doing it well, but he brought some significant people to Jesus.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What qualities did Andrew exhibit that enabled him to bring Peter, the boy with the fish, and the group of Gentiles to Jesus?
- What insecurities did Andrew demonstrate while bringing people to Jesus?
- Who changed people—Andrew or Jesus? (Duh, but it's important for us to recognize that we do not have the responsibility to bring about change!)
- What does it mean to “bring people to Jesus?”

### NEXT STEPS:

- Within your personality and gifts make a list of ways that you can help people move just a bit closer to Jesus.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray that God would give you opportunities to influence those that are important to you. Pray that you would have courage to take the opportunities.

# WEEK 7 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## The Body of Christ

**READ:** 1Corinthians 12:27

Wait—did you just read that verse? All of us are part of the body of Christ! God has given each of us a specific talent to further build His kingdom. It's what we do with that talent that counts. Just because He has given you a specific talent doesn't mean that you can do anything you want with it. You may have talented hands to write, but those same hands may not be skilled to paint. The talents we have were chosen and designed by our Creator to be specific for us! Don't try to go outside of your calling, and don't abuse your gifts by using them for evil instead of for good. We are called to glorify God and help others by using the talents He has given us. Our job on earth is to glorify Him!

We need to stop making excuses. We shouldn't say, "I don't have a talent," or think that someone else could do something so much better. Don't let Satan make you feel worthless or allow your mind to be filled with excuses. First Corinthians 12 aptly states that God has already given you a talent. It is our responsibility as the body of Christ to use these gifts to love and lead people to Christ and to likewise glorify God. Let's all work together by letting our words and actions teach, letting our hands heal, and letting our arms reach—one step at a time.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Why would you want to use a body part for something other than the function for which it was given? Are doing your part in the body of Christ to the full extent that you are able to do?
- Do you know what part you are called to in the body of Christ? Or, even better, do you even care? Another way might be to say: are you taking your call seriously?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Listen to the Casting Crowns song "We Are the Body."
- In your daily quiet time focus on how much stronger the body of Christ would be if each of us in our daily walk did the specific assignment that God has given us. Next, on a piece of paper make a list of your God given gifts. Then, prayerfully seek God's direction for creative ways that you can implement each of those gifts to serve the body—locally, regionally, globally.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Jesus, Your body—the church—is wonderfully made. We praise You for calling each one of us to serve as a part of Your body. Thank You for equipping each individual member of the body with gifts and talents for the building up of Your kingdom. May we always be a blessing to Your church and to Your world.

# WEEK 7 | DAY 3

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Trusting His Unseen Ways

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 4:13–18

God does not call us to save people. God does call us to love people unconditionally, whether we are going to lead them to Christ or not. As Americans we want instant results because virtually everything is at our fingertips at all times, but we all know that people do not work that way. Therefore, we do not lose heart, and we must fix our eyes on the unseen. I would equate the “unseen” to the omniscient, sovereign moving of God. What is seen can be deceiving, and we must continue to pray that God would move in unseen ways for the lost. Our efforts are not in vain, and we can rely on the fact that God is alive and working.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Are you frustrated with the lack of “seen” change in your lost friends and family?
- Have you been putting the weight of saving others on your shoulders?
- How might God be moving in “unseen” ways to come alongside your efforts?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Get away to somewhere quiet—on your own. Turn the cell phone and other distractions off. Sit and quiet your spirit. Seek God to show you how He is moving in “unseen” ways. Write down what you see or hear and spend some time thanking God for loving \_\_\_\_\_ even more than you do.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Spend some time praying that God would reveal ways that you can come alongside of what He is already doing instead of the opposite.

# WEEK 7 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Each Role Is Important

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 3:5–9

When it comes to discipling people it can be a bit tricky. We often get discouraged with how things are going. If you are anything like me, unless you are the one leading people to the Lord, it feels like you aren't doing a whole lot! The reality is that we all play vital parts in the process of someone coming to know the Lord. We place such a high priority on the reaping end of discipleship, yet there so many steps that lead to someone coming to know the Lord. Paul lays out two incredibly vital points in this passage: 1) regardless of what role you play in someone's spiritual journey, you are a servant; and 2) God does all the growing! We are just there to help people walk through it.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Think back to your own journey to knowing the Lord. Who were the people that influenced you through that process (not just the person who walked you through a prayer, but everyone who was involved)?
- Do you ever find yourself comparing yourself to others when it comes to how many people you have led to the Lord? Why do you do that? Why do you feel that is the most important part? Where does Paul place the value in this passage?
- Read Matthew 22:36–40. What does Jesus say is most important; the number of people you lead to Him or loving Him and others?

### NEXT STEPS:

- “Self-talk” can be such a dangerous thing. We often compare and make ourselves prideful, or we tear ourselves down. Take some moments this week to realize the significance that you play in someone's journey. Also throughout the week, whenever those doubts or self-talk about not being good enough arise, completely commit them to prayer. Read Romans 10:11–15 and see how each step (planter, water, reaper) is so vital.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Father, my prayer for today is that I would see with clear eyes how impactful my role is in people's lives; that when I start pouring into my “5” I wouldn't get discouraged if they don't immediately accept You, and that I would see my place in their journey. Father, give me the boldness to step out in faith when You call me. I pray that I would speak with authority in the lives of my “5.” I commit them to you today. Father, help me to overcome the self-talk so that when I start to tear myself (or others) down You would step in and give me the understanding and strength to stop. Fill me with the truth of your word. Amen.

# WEEK 7 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Prepare the Way

**READ:** Matthew 3:1–12

John the Baptist had one job to do: prepare the way. From Scripture we have no evidence that John ever personally led anyone to have an authentic relationship with Jesus. John's job of leading the way or “planting the seed” was not glamorous; he ate locusts and honey and probably looked kind of crazy. We all have different roles to play in God's overall mission—some more “glamorous” than others—but in the end it is all about obedience. Do not be discouraged if you seemingly only ever plant seeds because, like John the Baptist, you may be directly preparing the way for Jesus to transform lives.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- If God desired you to purely plant seeds and not see anyone directly come to Christ, would you be okay with that? Why or why not?
- How are you preparing the way for people to come into contact with Jesus?
- Are you discouraged in sharing the Gospel? Have you been sharing the Gospel?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Think through and make a list of the small things that you can consistently do to prepare the way for Jesus (e.g., simply being friendly and smiling, start three conversations with people you normally would not talk with, buy someone's meal behind you in the drive-through, etc.).

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray for a ministry reminiscent of John the Baptist's ministry and that God would use you to prepare the way in someone's life. Ask God to open your eyes to the small things that you can be doing to make Jesus desirable and attractive.



# WEEK 8 | DAY 1



## The Difference between Religion and the Gospel

**READ:** Romans 3:19–31

"This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

One of the first steps in following Christ is realizing that sin separates us from God, who desperately loves us. The Gospel of Jesus is about God bridging that gap between Himself and us by the sacrifice of His Son, who paid the penalty of death for our sin. Timothy Keller says that the Gospel message isn't about good guys and bad guys, about keeping the rules and breaking the rules. "In its (the Gospel) view everyone is wrong, everyone is loved, and everyone is called to recognize this and change."

Many people think that sin is all about breaking the rules and living immorally. Some try hard to live right, to follow the Ten Commandments, to go to church and follow the Golden Rule. Others don't care about rules and live and act in very obvious rebellion against God. The sin that separates us from God is not only about breaking the rules. And following the rules doesn't necessarily equal following God either. Sin is putting ourselves in the place of God as Savior, Lord, and Judge.

It's important to be diligent in remembering the difference between religion and the Gospel—for ourselves as Christ's followers and also as we view the lost around us. God's grace is what saves us, not our works or obedience or producing the fruit of the Spirit. Religion says that if I obey, I'm accepted by God. The Gospel says that I'm accepted by God through the work of Jesus.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What have you been doing lately to "earn your place" with God?
- What parts of your Christian life have become religion?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize Ephesians 2:8–9.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Father, help me to realize anew Your reckless grace in sacrificing Your Son for me to be Your child.

# WEEK 8 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Prepare Ahead of Time

**READ:** 1 Peter 3:15

First Peter 3:15 urges us to be “prepared...to give the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.” When you prepare for an exam, you invest hours poring over the material, absorbing the information until it becomes second nature. When you prepare for an interview, you invest your time getting to know the employer, the workplace, and how you fit there so that you can knowledgeably answer their questions. How much more important is the salvation of a friend than a test or job, and yet we invest so little time in knowing how to answer his or her searching questions.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Where is your focus in your friendships? Take a moment to evaluate what kind of investment you’re putting into your friendships. Do you consider just the health of the relationship, or do you consider your friend’s eternal spiritual health? Have you intentionally taken time to think through how to lead someone through accepting Christ?

### NEXT STEPS:

- It’s time to better equip yourself for when the time does come to lead someone down the road to professing faith in Jesus Christ. A first step is to put yourself in his or her shoes. Think back to the time that you first professed your faith in Jesus. Take some time right now to write out your experience and reflect on the questions and emotions that accompanied it.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Before you begin to reflect on your own story ask God to give you the necessary insight into the people you’ll be ministering to and the ability to know how your own story could connect with them. Ask for discernment to understand His insights and for empathy to appreciate what the Holy Spirit uncovers to you.

# WEEK 8 | DAY 3



## Throw away the Cookie Cutter

**READ:** I Corinthians 12:12–19

"But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." (v. 18)

One of the reasons community in Christ is so important is the "iron sharpens iron" aspect of living. While brothers and sisters in Christ have the message of the Gospel in common, we also have unique and varied personalities and gifts that offer opportunities for truly living out our faith. Look at Jesus' disciples: twelve men with very different backgrounds and personalities, living and working together with Jesus. And God used their varied personalities to carry the Gospel to the world. For example, think about Peter's gregariousness compared to Philip's reserved nature.

Our personalities and gifts play a big part in how we communicate the message of Christ to others. There is no cookie-cutter way to help someone find Jesus. God has created humans with differing tendencies and preferences, strengths and weaknesses. The overriding factor in reaching the lost is love. However, we are created to communicate and demonstrate the Gospel message with our lives and within our personalities.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What is one of your weaknesses? Name a strength or gift God has given you.
- Ask God to help you use your strengths and gifts to plant seeds of the gospel and attract the lost to Him.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Jeff Warren, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, has written an article: "The Six Styles of Evangelism." You can read it here: <http://www.pcbc.org/jeffsblog/?p=1064>
- With your spouse or a friend, discuss the style of evangelism that you most closely identify with and explain why.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray for God to use your background and your personality to reach others for Christ.

# WEEK 8 | DAY 4



## Walking the Romans Road

**READ:** Romans 3:23; 6:23, 5:8; 10:9–10; 10:13 (These verses from Romans are known as the Romans Road to Salvation)

Not everyone's salvation moment was introduced to them by way of the Romans Road, though everyone most likely walked an informal version of it when coming to Christ. The reason here is that the Romans Road holds intricate truths of belief and faith that need to be professed and believed to be a follower of Christ: 1) we are sinners (Rom. 3:23); 2) sin is death (Rom. 6:23); 3) Christ died for us because He loved us (Rom. 5:8); 4) anyone can be saved (Rom. 10:13); 5) Jesus Christ arose from the dead (Rom. 10:9); and 6) belief in our hearts is what justifies us (Rom. 10:10).

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Take a moment to ponder all of these beliefs. Do these convictions of faith still run as deep in you today as they did when you first believed? If not, it's time for you to rekindle the fire in your spirit that first confirmed your faith. How did these beliefs give you freedom? How can you share that freedom with one of your "5" today?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Write out the Romans Road to Salvation verses on a single card and place them in an area to remind you to pray for one or more of your "5."

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Prayerfully consider the area in which God would have you place the card you wrote on. Ask Him to open your eyes to see opportunities to share His Good News and for an urgency in your spirit to respond to His Holy Spirit when He says "go."

# WEEK 8 | DAY 5



## Let Me Show You What He Has Done

**READ:** Romans 10:13–15, Matthew 28:19–20

On my second trip to Kenya (in 2009), I was introduced to a small roadside town that God would later use to change my life, my perspective, and my pursuit of Him. Salgaa, the prostitution town as it is known, is a place that holds the stories, faces, and names of so many women I have come to love as sisters and friends. In my time spent hearing their stories of how they came to Salgaa and got caught up in this life, there was one thing that was always the same: upon their arrival, someone came to them in their desperation and said, "Let me show you what you can do." And that's how this life started for them.

I'm not an extrovert, so the idea of being an evangelist is incredibly intimidating to me. But after my first encounter with Salgaa, I came across the passage in Romans 10:13–15.

We are all sent (Matthew 28:19–20). We've all been called and chosen for the task of making Christ known. Think how different things would be if we lived with this goal in mind: to live our lives in such a way that says to others, "Let me show you what He has done!"

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- To whom have you been sent? Write out your "My 5." What do you want your life to show others? What has your life been showing to others? What or who has been most important? What is one way that you can intentionally make Christ known today?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Oftentimes when it comes to sharing our faith, we feel ill-equipped and wonder what we can even say. So let's take some time to remind ourselves of what Christ has done. Read through the following Scriptures and then write out in a paragraph or two how those have played out in your life. Look for an opportunity to challenge or encourage someone with what Christ has done in you!
- Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Take some time to pray for those in your "My 5" and ask God for the opportunity to show them Christ. Pray that "God may open the door for (your) message, so that (you) may proclaim the mystery of Christ... Pray that (you) may proclaim it clearly, as (you) should" (Colossians 4:3–4).



# WEEK 9 | DAY 1

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Your One-of-a-Kind Role

**READ:** Acts 20:24; Ephesians 2:8–10

You are uniquely you. This is true, whether you like it or not. God created you with a purpose in mind. In Psalm 139 David speaks to God's unlimited knowledge and presence in his life and affirms to us that God knows His plans for each individual. God knows and understands what you will experience. You have a unique purpose. He had all this in mind when He created you. And as a result, you have a task to perform—a part to play in building His kingdom. Today's verses remind us of a task or work that God has given for His people. No one is like you. No one else can do your part as well as you. God, in His infinite wisdom, has placed you where you are. His invitation to become involved is as real as ever. Keep in mind that He has given you all that you need to fulfill that purpose. Be encouraged today; know that God made you uniquely to “Show & Tell!”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How has your understanding of God's purpose for you deepened over the years?
- Would others who know you well confirm your understanding of your role? Consider asking someone who would have a good perspective and prayerfully weigh his or her response.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Start making a list of others who have impacted your life for the kingdom. Next to their names, write the role they played in your life. If you feel so led, write them a short note, thanking them for their part and give the glory to God!

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Ask God to give you wisdom as you consider your uniqueness and how God wants to utilize you for His kingdom. Ask Him to affirm your purpose and to reveal any details of which you are unaware. Ask Him to continue to reveal your part for the “5.”

# WEEK 9 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

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MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Using Your Spiritual Gifts

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11

Not only has God created you to be you—unique in so many amazing ways—but He also gave every believer different spiritual gifts as He saw fit. God, in His omniscience (He knows everything), knows exactly which gifts will be best suited for each particular follower of His. Like a piece of a puzzle, the Bible tells us that our gifts serve a purpose. That purpose is to help each other and build one another up as needs arise. You have been created and called by God to serve a purpose in His kingdom and in the world around you.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Do I see myself as unique and special or as just another human being?
- When was the last time I considered the fact that God has gifted me?
- In what ways has God made me unique?
- What are my spiritual gifts?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take a look in the mirror each day this week and say these words: “I am unique, specifically gifted, and important to God.” (Hint: it will feel awkward!)
- Try to make a list of any of the spiritual gifts that God has given you. Read 1 Corinthians 12 if you need help identifying different ones.
- Identify three ways this past year that God used you to help someone else.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

God, thanks for taking time to create me and gift me in ways that are unique to only me. Remind me that my uniqueness and gifting is to be used to help others in need. Help me to be alert today for opportunities to serve others with Your help.

# WEEK 9 | DAY 3

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Differences That Are “Very Good”

**READ:** Genesis 1:26–31

I love watching the Olympics. Whenever they are on, I'm glued to all that is happening. I especially love to watch the opening ceremony as all the teams from the participating countries walk into the stadium. It's fascinating to look at the various athletes with their different skills and talents.

Isn't it amazing to think that God created us with so many differences? There truly is no one exactly like we are. God created us perfect—just the way that we are. Our differences make us unique. There is no part of us that is a mistake. We are made in His design.

I have always found it interesting that in the midst of all that God made “good,” it wasn't until after He created man and woman, Scripture says, that things were “very good.” Think about that: He called your creation “very good!”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever wanted to change something about yourself or how you look? Why?
- Have you ever thought about the fact that the differences you have from others were completely on purpose?
- What do you find unique in the fact that God made man and woman in His image and likeness?
- How can this passage help you become more confident when faced with a divine appointment?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take some time to thank God for the unique ways that He has made you. Now think of the others who are in your family. Take time to tell them the ways that you believe God made them unique. Think of those that you have a difficult time loving. What are some of the unique differences in them that you can appreciate, knowing that God made that in them?

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

God has made you unique for a reason. Pray and ask Him to show you how He may want to use your uniqueness for His glory.

# WEEK 9 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## God Knows and He Cares

**READ:** Luke 12:6–7

There are times where fear grips me for one reason or another—finances, difficult circumstances, difficult people, and the list goes on. Whatever the case, I'm quickly reminded by God that fear is not from Him. I don't need to fear because He knows everything about me and cares for me. He knows me so well that the uniqueness of the hairs on my head—or the lack of hair!—is counted by Him. (If you have no hair, God knows where the hair used to be!) God wants to remind you today that you are unique, that He knows all about you, and that He cares for you!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Is fear currently a reality in my life?
- When was the last time I really remembered that God knows everything about me?
- When was the last time I remembered that God cares for me and for my needs?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Think of a worship song that reminds you about the way God cares for you.
- Memorize Psalm 139:14.
- Write a list of at list three ways that God has specifically cared for you and the specific situations that you have been through.
- Say these words out loud: “God created me like no one else. I am special to Him, and He cares for me.”

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

God, remind me today of the ways that You continue to care for me. Thank You for creating me like no one else and for knowing everything about me—even down to my hair quantity! I trust in You today.

# WEEK 9 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPTIVE STORY

## A Big World with a Big Need

**READ:** Luke 15:1–7

The world just seems to be getting bigger: more houses being built, more businesses going up everywhere you look. There seems to be more each time I go to visit family in the town where I grew up. It's hard to keep up. The truth is that as the world gets bigger, the need to share the Gospel is increasing. Those of us who have a relationship with Jesus have been given the task of making disciples and helping to make God known. We've been asked to share Jesus with those who don't know Him—people around us that we interact with each day.

Despite the fear or feelings of inadequacy that we might have, God has called us to go. I once heard someone say, "If I was the only sinner left, Christ still would have died for me." That same saying goes for you and for each person who still needs to hear the Good News of salvation.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- As you read these verses, what do they say about the value that God has placed on each person? What lengths does it say that He goes to for just one lost sheep? What lengths does that mean we should go to for those we interact with that are lost?
- What is holding you back from telling others about the salvation that Jesus offers?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take time to think about what your life was like before Christ. Think about what it would still be like had you not accepted His free gift of grace. Now take time to think about those that you interact with each day who don't have a relationship with Jesus. Who are the people on your list of "5" people that you are praying for? Take time to pray for them right now. Look at your schedule over the next month and make a time to meet with those people to start a spiritual conversation with them.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Take time today to pray and ask God to help you with any fear or feelings of insecurity that you have. Ask God to help you put yourselves in the shoes of the "5" people that you've been praying for. Ask God to increase your desire and passion to share Christ with them and to decrease any feelings of fear, doubt, or insecurity. Remember that He has overcome the world, and that He will give you His strength.

# WEEK 9 DAY 6

# SHOW & TELL

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEPTIVE STORY

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Sign up to work a shift during the Feed My Starving Children event. Invite some of the people you're praying for to join you!



**CHALLENGE:** Talk about how the assembly line worked after the event. What happens if someone goes too fast or too slow? Every person has their role to play. Take turns telling one another things God has made them good at. Then think together about ways they can use that show and tell others about Jesus. Find a way to remember what is said. Draw a family portrait of each member doing their role or write it down.

**EXTRA:** Look up the song *Better Than Life* by Hillsong Kids!

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**Out of the BOX**

**A THANK YOU NOTE TO GOD.** Our lives after salvation are meant to be a thank you note to God. Take a moment to do just that. What can you thank God for today? Three possible ways to do this:

- Take out a sheet of paper and write it out.
- Take to social media and write it out. Facebook or Instagram make the most sense. A thank you note to God in 140 characters or less on Twitter seems impossible!
- Combine the two ideas. Take out a sheet of paper and write it, then take a picture of the note and post it to Instagram, Twitter, and/or Facebook.
- Remember to use the tag #mystory.

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# WEEK 10 | DAY 1



## Marvelous Grace

**READ:** Luke 10:1–24

Jesus sends out his followers. He tells them to go to their neighbors and offer peace, to stay in one place and build relationships, to heal the sick, and to tell people that the kingdom of God is close. They return from their journeys, marveling at the success they have enjoyed.

Jesus, however, reminds them of what is really worth celebrating: your names are in the census of heaven! What you do for God is much less significant than what God has done for you. Your past sin is remembered no more. Your present is saturated with His presence, and your future is secure and glorious. Rejoice!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- In the context of the seventy-two returning in awe of the power they had possessed, why do you think Jesus told them about the fall of Satan?
- What were Jesus' feelings in response to the disciples' report (v. 21)?
- How did He celebrate?
- In verse 23, what did the disciples see and hear that was such a blessing?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take a break and listen to your favorite praise music sometime today.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for God's grace in your life and in the lives of those you love.

# WEEK 10 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Celebrating the Harvest

**READ:** Psalm 145: 4–7

Celebrating incorporates communicating thanks and praise to God! Throughout the Bible we find countless stories that document an account of joyous celebration. The stories of the Prodigal Son, the Lost Coin, the Good Samaritan, or the Raising of Lazarus are but a few examples of a euphoric kind of “party festivity.”

Reading His Word and sharing Bible stories with friends and family places a huge importance on celebrating His faithfulness from generation to generation. Likewise, implementing family traditions that communicate your “God story” can be a wonderful way to celebrate a spiritual legacy. This kind of legacy establishes a unique identity for your household, instills values, provides security, builds memories, and paves the way for others to join the “salvation party” as all rejoice together in the victory of saved souls and changed lives.

Celebrating God’s goodness involves one generation telling the story of God’s intervention and blessing to the next generation and the next. Sharing recollections of your family’s faith journey are family accounts that symbolize the significance of celebrating. Repeatedly retelling these legacy stories helps us to remember to rejoice, to praise, and to applaud God for His good gifts. Sharing our family “story stones” with future generations lays the foundation for a God-ordained heritage of celebration!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Have I effectively communicated my personal spiritual journey to my immediate family? To my extended family? To my coworkers? To the “5” that I am reaching out to? Has my life reflected a model of inspirational influence to the significant others in my life? Am I an effective ambassador for Christ? Do others see me celebrate being a Jesus follower? What “story stones” lay the foundation to make me a better ambassador for Christ?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Write Him a poem or a letter to celebrate His goodness and mercy.
- Make a list of the many ways you can celebrate giving thanks.
- Including the youngest family member to the oldest, write down your family’s foundational “story stones” and celebrate this legacy together.
- Document the interaction that you have had thus far with your “5.” Plan a date to celebrate your journey together.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Father, You are an abundant Provider, a gracious Savior, and a faithful Friend. I celebrate Your great majesty. Who can compare to Your glory and might? You are sovereign and supreme above all things! I thank You for Your abundant blessing and Your generosity, and I joyfully praise You because You are mightily above and beyond all that I deserve. I celebrate You! And I cheer Your fame and appreciate Your greatness!

# WEEK 10 | DAY 3

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Do You Remember?

**READ:** Deuteronomy 5:15; Psalm 78:1–7

When you connect with old friends, the immediate renewal of camaraderie is the result of having shared experiences. It doesn't take long in those reunions to begin to recount past situations—good and bad. Remembering is part of the celebration. God instructs Israel to regularly remember where they came from. He reminds them of the times of deliverance, the tragedies avoided, and the blessings enjoyed. He encourages them to share those experiences with family and friends. Recounting those important stories builds our faith. For those who are too young or who have avoided adversity, the remembrances of others illustrates God's faithfulness and precipitates confidence in the future protection of God.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How is remembering connected to the Sabbath? How does that affect your Sundays?
- In your own words, give a general description of the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord (Psalm 78:4).
- According to Psalm 78:5–7, what is the purpose of telling your “God stories” to your children?

### ACTION STEPS:

- Get your hands on a concordance—perhaps at the library or online ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))—and do a search of the word remember. Read every passage. Make a list of what is to be remembered.
- Make your own list of situations when God has brought you through difficult times and of times that He has saved you from tragedy.
- Sometime this week, tell a story to your children or grandchildren of how God delivered you.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Offer a prayer of praise for God's faithfulness—in the past, right now, and in the future.

# WEEK 10 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY

## Planting Seeds of Faith

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 9:10

When we celebrate God's goodness, the result will be joy in our hearts. Why and when do we celebrate? We celebrate when we have a reason to rejoice. We celebrate to mark milestones and significant occasions of happiness. We celebrate seasons of bounty. The farmer celebrates a time of abundance at the close of the growing season. What an overwhelming exhilarated feeling it must be for the grower to look at silos filled to capacity and know that diligence and endurance have produced a rich payoff.

As Christians, we too can produce a harvest from the seeds of faith that we sow. Faith produces the goodness of God in our lives. But if we never put our hands to the "plow" and really start digging, if we never sow any seeds of faith, the hardness of our heart will not provide fertile faith for anything to grow. The bottom line is this: there is no harvest if we never plant, nurture, cultivate, and fertilize seeds of faith.

It takes more than telling God that we want to produce a harvest. It takes more than standing with empty hands. It takes more than lifting our hands in praise. It takes more than living an okay life. God provides the seed. Successfully sowing the seeds of faith produces an abundant harvest in our lives.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Am I sowing the fruits of the Spirit in my own life? Am I seeking God to multiply love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to my family, my church family, my neighbors, and my "5"?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Throw a party! Step out of your comfort zone, dig in, and trust God to release His power in you to try a next-step "something" outside of the box. When the prodigal son returned, when Lazarus was raised from the dead, when Daniel remained safe from the lions, and when the blind man was healed are but a few biblical examples of joyful celebrations.
- Choose one of those stories and read it together with your "5." List all of the emotions within the story. Then celebrate with party streamers, shouts of praise, applause. Be a joyfully noisy, raucous praiser!

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

God, may I never lose sight of Your majestic presence. Help me always to delight in Your rich bounty of blessing and never underestimate Your providence. Multiply the harvest of my faith and increase my borders. Holy Spirit, I call upon You to grow mightily in my spirit so that I might replicate Your example.

# WEEK 10 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Seeing God in the Big and in the Small

**READ:** Luke 15:7

“Bigger is always better.” How often do we feel like this is our focus in today’s culture? We are pretty sold on this slogan with so many things in our lives—almost to the point where can neglect to see or value anything smaller. We often forget to see the forest for the trees; we are always looking for the big and fancy and we don’t spend enough time looking at the progress. As we continue to talk about God’s redemptive story, sometimes God works in the small and unnoticed. Unless we pause to take a look at what God is already doing, we can miss it. It’s easy to celebrate in the large and magnificent, but do we celebrate God in the small steps of progress? When sharing with our “5,” we can so easily be discouraged if someone doesn’t come to know the Lord, which then leads to a revival (this is sarcasm, obviously)! It sounds funny, but maybe God wants us to see Him working in the details and the “small” areas of people’s lives! So let’s rejoice in all the victories—big and small!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Are you a detail-oriented person or more of a “broad-stroke” person?
- Do you ever get discouraged when you don’t see drastic change in people’s lives when you are pouring into them? Why is that?
- Take a moment and walk through all the steps you went through to get to where you are today! Did it all happen in one instance or over a period of time?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Take a walk out in nature. Pause every so often and think about the complexity of what is going on around you. Let’s think on a small scale for a second: learn to identify what it looks like for God to do a work in the minor details and be able to celebrate that!

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

God, my prayer for this week is to wait on Your timing so that in the times when it feels like I haven’t seen much change, I would be able to identify the major change in people’s lives! I pray that I could celebrate in the big and the small! You are always at work, and my desire is to see that and to be in awe of Your handiwork in the lives of people!



# WEEK 11 | DAY 1

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## “He Changes Me!”

**READ:** 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

Believing the Gospel message is the first step toward a new identity and a new relationship with Christ. God's redemptive story is alive and active, continually moving and breathing in the lives of those who choose to receive His grace. In her study on Gideon, Priscilla Shirer says, “God doesn't save me and give me a rule book; He changes me.” The key word here is the active, present-tense changes. Deepening our understanding of the salvation of Christ and living out the changes that understanding creates is how we grow. It is a lifelong process—not a task. Spiritual disciplines don't make us better people than the lost. Spiritual disciplines are our lifeline to God, His power, and His love so that we can live for Him.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What have you read recently in the Bible that impacted you? What is God teaching you currently? What part or parts of God's character have ministered to your spirit lately? With whom have you shared your fresh discoveries? When we pray for God to lead us in conversations with the lost, we are inviting God to take us on a journey of trusting Him, of truly loving others, of growing in our faith. When we share the Gospel with the lost, in essence we are asking them to join the journey of living and growing under the grace of God.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17–21. Write out a before-and-after list of how God is changing your life. Share this with another believer.
- Talk about your list with one of the lost people for whom you've been praying.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for becoming my sin so that I could be reconciled to God. Help my life to promote the ministry of Your reconciliation.

# WEEK 11 | DAY 2

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## Adopted by the King

**READ:** Ephesians 1:3–14

When a child is adopted into a family, he or she not only takes on the family's last name but also everything that encompasses that family. The parents become his or her parents; the siblings, his or her siblings; the house and all of their possessions, his or her house and possessions. That child is legally regarded as an heir by law. It is as if the mother bore that child herself. We have been adopted by God through Jesus' redemptive blood that was shed on the cross. The King of Kings has adopted you. You have now become His child—his heir. You are royalty. You are a co-heir with Christ. What a precious honor! Everything He has is now yours: His love, His goodness, His purity and holiness, His power and authority, His promise for eternity—everything has been given to you!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What comes to mind when you think of God's:
  - a) character?
  - b) love?
  - c) power?
  - d) redemptive grace?
- What does it mean to be an heir to God?
- You are His heir through His redemptive grace. How does your view of yourself change?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Pick one of your "My 5." Think about him or her having all that you have in Christ, by being God's heir. After answering the "Call to Prayer" (below), send that person a text, Facebook message, or a card in the mail or give him or her a call. Simply say you love that person and are praying for God's joy to pour over him or her today.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Pray the same over them. Pray for them to accept God's redemptive grace. When you think of God's character, His love, His power, and His grace, it can't help but bring joy to your spirit. Ask God to pour His joy over your friend or loved one.

# WEEK 11 | DAY 3



## God's Redemptive Grace

**READ:** Colossians 4:6; Romans 3:23–24

Let's define some words:

Redeem – to buy back, repurchase; to rescue (often from sin) with a ransom

Grace – God's free and unmerited favor for sinful humanity

So, if we're talking about "God's redemptive grace," what exactly is that? By definition it would be God's free and unmerited favor given to rescue us from sin. This grace is given to us through the gift of His Son, Jesus, crucified for us on the cross, taking on our sin so that we may have the opportunity to experience life with Him! What an incredible gift of grace!

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- In Colossians 4:6, the verse starts off with "let your conversation be always full of grace." Knowing what you know about God's grace, what do you think this verse is saying?
- The verse also says, "...seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." As we share with others, we should have a balance of grace and truth. What side of the equation do you tend to land on most often?
- If you were to share with someone what God's redemptive grace has looked like in your life, what would you share?

### NEXT STEPS:

- This week, take a morning to write out a "thank-you" note to God for the gift of grace He's given you! In addition, write out Psalm 136:1 on a card and put it in a place where you'll see it and be reminded of it: on a bathroom mirror, the car dashboard, etc. Each time you see it, pause to say "thanks" to God!

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

As you pray for your "My 5" this week, pray for an opportunity to share God's grace with them. Pray that He would begin the work of drawing their hearts to Him and opening their eyes to see what He's freely offering to them.

# WEEK 11 | DAY 4

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPTIVE STORY

## God, Be with Us

**READ:** 1 Samuel 3:1–4:1

Samuel ministered in the house of the Lord as a boy because of his mother's obedience to her promise to God. Yet verse 7 says, "Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: the Word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him." God called Samuel three times, and with Eli's instruction, Samuel answered God's call the fourth time with the words: "Speak, for your servant is listening." Because of his willingness to listen to God and to speak God's words, Samuel gained respect and recognition as a man of God. God used Samuel's words as His own.

We can glean several truths from Samuel's early life. These truths help us to tell others about God's redemptive story and how it is changing our lives. Samuel lived in the temple with an older, more mature man of God. Samuel made himself available to hear from God. And Samuel obeyed God even when he was afraid. Believers need each other. Believers spend time with God and listen to Him. Believers may experience fear but remember that "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

"The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up...." May this be our prayer: "God, be with us and enable us to tell Your redemption story through us."

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Do a word study in the Bible on the words courage or afraid and write out the verses that are meaningful to you.
- What message or part of God's redemptive story is God asking you to tell? Consider writing out what God reveals to you.
- Share this with another believer. Share it with the lost person for whom you've been praying.

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Lord, use my words to spread Your fame and glory.

# WEEK 11 | DAY 5

# SHOW “TELL”

MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

## New Life in Christ

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 5:14–21

Not sharing the story of what Christ has done in our lives would be like a lame man who has been healed forgetting that he can walk. Imagine it. A man who has been lame for his entire life one day encounters Jesus and experiences a miracle. With just the touch of the Savior's hand, the man feels strength restored in his legs, straightens up in his wheelchair, braces his hands and arms around the sides of the chair, and pushes himself up to stand. Amazed, the man excitedly jumps and leaps and walks around! Embracing this new life, he goes on his way, jumping and leaping and praising God!

As days go by, maybe even weeks or months, the excitement of this miracle begins to wear off. Life gets busy, and somehow the amazing miracle that it was becomes forgotten, no longer shared with others. Then one day, the man gets back in the wheelchair, forgetting that he could ever even walk in the first place!

Now that sounds ridiculous, right? What lame man who gets miraculously healed could possibly forget the day, the experience, and the life change that it was? Yet isn't that what sometimes happens to us as believers? Over time, we somehow forget that a miraculous life change has happened in us when we encountered Christ, and somewhere along the line, we just stop sharing it.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What stands out as you read this Scripture passage? What does it mean to be Christ's ambassador? What has Christ done in your life that needs to be shared?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Write it out. Take a notecard or piece of paper and write out 2 Corinthians 5:14–21. Let it be your prayer as you consider your "My 5" and the call that God has placed on your life to be His ambassador to them. As you read verse 21, insert the name of each of your "My 5" into it, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for (insert name), so that in Him (insert name) might become the righteousness of God."

### A CALL TO PRAYER:

Ask God to give you a renewed desire to share your miraculous life change with others.

# WEEK 11 | DAY 6

# SHOW "TELL"

## MY ROLE IN GOD'S REDEMPITIVE STORY

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God's story is worth hearing. Practice sharing what God is doing in your life by sharing it with your family!



**CHALLENGE:** Take time every day to ask the following questions of each other. Everyone gets to answer! The more you practice sharing with one another, the easier it gets to share with others too!

- What was the best part of your day?
- What was the hardest part of your day?
- Where did you see God or how did you show God's love today?
- Where did you mess up today?

**EXTRA:** Look up the song *Alive* by Hillsong Young & Free!

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### Out of the



**TAKE A WALK WITH GOD.** Pretend He's walking right beside you. As you walk, share some "I see..." statements with God concerning the five individuals you've identified.

What are some of the dreams you have for their spiritual journey?

Examples:

- *God, I see Tim worshipping you with all his heart someday.*
- *God, I see John sharing his new-found faith with his parents.*
- *God, I see Katherine finding freedom from the shame of her past choices.*

As you walk together, have an honest conversation with God about where you are in your journey with Him. Let Him in on any secrets you've been holding back from Him. Make it a fun walk together. Laugh together. Listen to what He may want to say to you.

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