

# The Impact of Your Story



It doesn't take long for us Christians to learn the basics; Jesus is the son of God, Jesus was born and lived a perfect life, Jesus died for my sins, Jesus rose from the grave and went to Heaven, I too can have eternal life if I repent and believe in Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

All too often we feel if we tell an unbeliever these basic facts, then that is enough for them to get saved. Yes, these basic facts are enough for someone to believe and to be saved. But, we are

forgetting another basic fact, we too have had a life changing experience with Jesus. **OUR STORY** can be a powerful tool in witnessing.

In this lesson we are going to look at the Story of King David, the incidents in his life that were life changing and our own story that has had several if not many incidents that changed the course of our lives. For the purpose of this study we are going to call these critical incidents in our lives, **Inciting Incidents**. Read I Samuel 16 - 17, 20, 25, II Samuel 2 - 3, 5, 7 - 9, 11 - 13, 15, 18 - 19, 23 -24, I Kings 1 - 2.

As you read about the life of David take note of the **Inciting Incidents** that occurred in his life and the different characters he encounters. You will be creating something like a timeline of David's life as his life relates to his relationship with God. Some incidents drew him closer to God while others pushed him away from God and into sin. We will call all of these Inciting Incidents, **The Backstory of David**, the things that happened to him in the past that shaped and molded him.

Draw a timeline of David's life on the back of this page. Graph the inciting incidents of his life and note what they were and whether or not these incidents pushed him towards God or away from God.



## The Backstory...

Your personal backstory includes your birth, the events that have shaped you and your conversion to Christ. Your parents and grandparents play a big part in your backstory and how you have been shaped into who you are today.

Take some time and think about your backstory. Now, make a list of those key things that have happened in your life that have shaped you up until now. This is called connecting the dots. As you fill in the blanks below add dates and times.

When were you born and where? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who are your parents? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you live with one or both of them or someone else? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many siblings do you have \_\_\_\_\_  
How many different places have you lived? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where do you go to school? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where do you work? \_\_\_\_\_



Now look at the **Inciting Incidents** in your life. An **Inciting Incident** is an event that had a positive or negative impact in your life at a specific point in time and has shaped who you are today. As you make this list, include the dates following each incident.

What are your major achievements? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your failures? \_\_\_\_\_

What has caused you pain and hurt? \_\_\_\_\_

How has that pain and hurt caused you to sin or others to sin against you? \_\_\_\_\_

What has brought you joy and happiness? \_\_\_\_\_

When and where did you accept Christ as your savior? \_\_\_\_\_

*Even though we have given our life to Christ, if we do not allow him to transform our pain we will transfer our pain into our future.*

By being able to share our backstory it will allow others to understand the whole story of who we are in Christ.

## The Characters

Who are the cast of characters in your backstory? List these characters by name and what role they have played in the inciting incidents of your story, including the dates. These characters will have played a positive or negative role in your story. For each character that has played a positive role place a (T) if you have thanked them or (NA) no action taken. For those who have played a negative role place an (F) if you have never forgiven them or (NA) no action taken.

Who are the characters in your life..... these characters may have done one or more of the following...

1. Who has showed you love?
2. Who has humbled you?
3. Who has led you astray?
4. Who has hurt you or betrayed you?
5. Who developed and mentored you?
6. Who has invested positive things in you?
7. Who has held you accountable?
8. Who.....[You fill in the blank]....

For example, in David's backstory, there is an individual by the name of Nathan. Nathan was the person in David's life who told him like it was/told him the truth, he was not afraid to hold David accountable for his actions/his sins.

Below is an example of how David may have listed people in his life.

Name	Inciting Incident	Date	T/ F/ NA
1. Nathan	held accountable for his actions with Bathsheba		T
2.			

**Create a chart like the example above of your own inciting incidents.**

[illegible]

# The Plot

Take a moment and read Psalm 51.

We have taken a close look at our backstory and those moments in our life that created our backstory. We have also looked at the cast of characters in our backstory.

Now let's create a timeline and plot on that timeline things that have happened in the backstory along with the characters that have created the **inciting incidents** in our time line. By taking the inciting incidents and characters and plotting them on the timeline we create the narrative of our life or our story.

So often we look at a timeline as being neutral, but we know life is not neutral. It is positive or negative.

Below is a sample timeline. Graph the inciting incidents of your life on the back of this sheet of paper, place dates on the timeline when the events occurred.

Birth

(above the line events have taken you to Christ,below events away from Christ)

Present



Now take a few minutes, look at your life and the backstory of how God has worked in your life, how would you share your story with someone? Our story is of no value to someone who does not know Christ if we do not marry it to the cross...

Some things to remember: Don't over plot your story. Keep it simple. Remember our story has a beginning, a middle, but not yet an ending, Christ is still at work in you. In plotting our story we become authentic (real) to the person we are talking to.

Your assignment is to write out your story. Keep time in mind, it should not take you more than 5 minutes to read it, 3 minutes is ideal. Your story will have 3 basic parts; first part, what was your life like before you came to know/understand who Christ is, second when and how you were introduced to Christ as your Savior, and third what differences are now in your life because you have accepted Him into your heart.