

The Power of Story

“I can only answer the question of ‘What am I to do?’ by answering the prior question, ‘Of what stories am I a part?’” – Alastair MacIntyre

Main Point: God takes _____ lives and writes them into His _____ story.

- God is the One _____ the story.
- God is the One _____ the invitation.
- God is the One who _____ the way in Christ.

Point #1: When God _____ us into His story, we must _____ yes.

For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!”
- 2 Corinthians 1:20a (NLT)

The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.”- 1 Corinthians 15:45, 49 (NLT)

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

“Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.” - John 11:25-27 (NLT)

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9 (NLT)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. - Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

Point #2: When God writes our _____ into His, our _____ doesn't disqualify us.

No one's life is too messy. No one is too far gone.

God's grace is bigger than the worst chapter of your story.

But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the Lord his God and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors. And when he prayed, the Lord listened to him and was moved by his request. So the Lord brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the Lord alone is God!
- 2 Chronicles 33:12-13 (NLT)

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"
- Revelation 21:5a (NLT)

Jesus came to save us – and to be with us.

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
- Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

Point #3: Sometimes joining God's story means _____ Him to _____ ours.

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. - Psalm 119:105

Obedience doesn't mean knowing the whole story. It means trusting the Author.

Point #4: Your story _____ because God can _____ it into His story.

Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts. - 2 Corinthians 3:3 (NLT)

"There are five gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the Christian, but most people never read the first four." - Gypsy Smith