

Group Leader Training - Session 2

Notes:

Scripture:

John 10:11; Genesis 48:15; Numbers 27:17; Psalm 78:72; Isaiah 40:11; 1 Peter 5:2; Psalm 23; John 10:14-15; John 10:28; Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-30; Matthew 18:12-13

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is knowing the story of how God saved you important?
2. Why is sharing your story a good way to share the Gospel?
3. Have you ever thought about sharing your testimony with others?

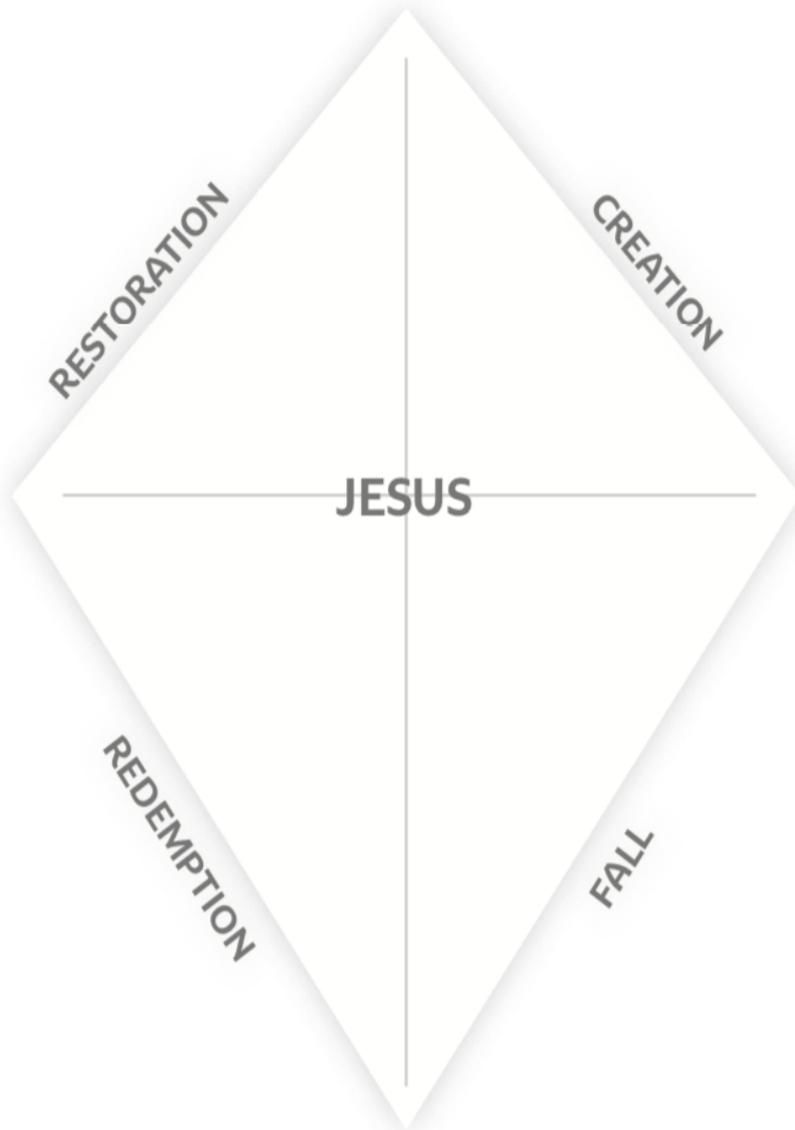
Homework:

- Use the “*Story Diamond*” equipping tool to write out your testimony of how Jesus saved you.

Resources:

- [Story Diamond](#)

STORY DIAMOND Following Jesus in Story



1. The Bible is a Story
2. The story has four movements
3. Jesus is the center of the story
4. The story can shape us

SIMPLE**CHURCH**

Story Diamond Summary

I love to hear people's stories. I love to hear about their upbringing and background, their successes and failures, their challenges and victories, their joys and sorrows. A person's story helps us understand and know each other better and how we can support one another in life.

But, sometimes I find something missing when we share our stories. We are often the hero of our story. And, as a Jesus follower, I believe Jesus should be the hero of our story because he gives us a better story to tell.

The story diamond tool was created with that goal, to help Jesus be at the center of our story; not just the one we tell, but the story we live out. Jesus' story shapes us and it's outlined by the story of the Bible. This is where the four sides of the diamond come from - the Bible.

In the Bible, we see four key movements that are essential to centering our lives around Jesus. These movements can be summarized in one sentence: God made it, we broke it, Jesus fixes it, and we can join Jesus in fixing it.

Here are the 4 movements and how they shape our story:

1. **Creation** - We are made in the image of God and there are many things to celebrate about how God made us and the family and background we come from. Jesus made all things and in him all things hold together (Col. 1.16-17). Creation celebrates the good that we see in our background from our family of origin, our ethnic and geographic background, and the way we were raised.
2. **Fall** - Not only did Adam and Eve fall in their sin against God, but we are now impacted by that decision. The world is not as it should be and there are hurts, hang-ups, and bad habits that many of us have experienced in life. However, other people are not to blame for our brokenness. We have *all* fallen short of God's standard and sinned against him and others and are in need of rescue. The fall is the movement where we acknowledge and grieve the brokenness and sin in our story. While there might be some strong negative shaping influences in our lives, we are ultimately responsible for our sin against God and our rejection of Jesus.
3. **Redemption** - The story would end at the fall, with everyone trying to live their best lives and pursue what they believe is best if it weren't for Jesus. Without him, our world and our lives look hopeless and discontent. But, Jesus came to redeem us and reconcile us to God. For those who acknowledge our sin against God, there is hope when we turn to Jesus. Redemption is the part of our story where we recognize our desperate need for Jesus and that he lived, died and rose again so that we can come into relationship with God. For some of us, this is a dramatic moment of having our eyes opened to the

realization of our need for Jesus. For others, it is a less dramatic and longer journey of giving our lives over to Jesus. Either way, it requires us turning in repentance from our sin and turning to pursue Jesus.

4. **Restoration** - Jesus' work wasn't only to forgive our sin and make us right with God. Through his perfect life, he credits us as perfectly righteous; and as a result of that we are called to bring Jesus to the world, reflecting the power of restoration through our lives. Now we are able to join Jesus in bringing restoration to our relationships and our communities. Many of us will have a specific burden or calling from God where we are empowered by the Spirit to work with Jesus by bringing restoration to our world

Seeing our story within these four movements of the Bible helps Jesus be the hero of our story and for us to share Jesus with others when we tell our story. The story diamond is meant to be a visual tool to understand the Gospel - a mirror to see ourselves in Christ and to view our world through the story of the Bible.

Stories are a powerful tool in sharing the gospel because they practically show how Jesus can redeem and transform our lives. Our hope is that this tool will help you navigate what it looks like to share your story in a way that continually points back to Jesus and what your story means in light of his greater story.