

Soul Strong Study – Week 8 “STORY”

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(Chapter 7 “Share Stories” in *Soul Strong*)

“I reflect on God’s faithfulness with gratitude and hope.”

***All Jesus did all day was tell stories – a long storytelling afternoon
His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy: I will open my mouth and tell stories;
I will bring out into the open things hidden since the world’s first day.***

Matthew 13.34-35 MSG

Story

Let those who have been set free by the Lord tell their story. Psalm 107.1-2

“Story is the primary way in which the revelation of God is given to us. The Holy Spirit’s genre of choice is story. Moses told stories; Jesus told stories; the four Gospel writers presented their good news in the form of stories. And the Holy Spirit weaves all this storytelling into the vast and holy literary architecture that reveals God to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the way that he chooses to make himself known. Story. Story is the primary means we have for learning what the world is, and what it means to be a human being in it. No wonder that from the time we acquire the mere rudiments of language, we demand stories.” Eugene Petersen

Tell

“For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.” 1 Thessalonians 2.4

“Tell the story of what God has done for you.” Luke 8.39

Stories Shape Lives

When you were a young teenager _____

When in your early twenties _____

When you first started work or got married _____

When you had children or a major life change _____

When you lived through two years of pandemic _____

Obey

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corinthians 1.4

“When we share our stories, we give people around us an opportunity to speak of their own unexpected challenges. We develop a bond with others and a risk-free environment for people to say ‘This is what happened to me.’ And God can use those times to bring about much good. I’ve discovered the benefits of telling our story far outweigh the liabilities, if we can just find the courage to move forward.” – Carol Kent

Remember

I will teach you hidden lessons from our past – stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty works.

Psalm 78.2-4

“Maybe nothing is more important than we keep track, you and I, of these stories of who we are and where we have come from and the people we have met along the way because it is precisely through these stories in all their particularity, as I have long believed and often said, that God makes himself known to each of us most powerfully and personally.” – Frederick Buechner, “Telling Secrets”

When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart. For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost.” – Frederick Buechner, “Whistling in the Dark”

Legacy

- So our kids will have hope.
- So they won't forget God's glorious miracles.
- So our kids will obey God's commands.

Yes!

“For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.” | Thessalonians 2.4

What objections do you have?

“We are not writing to justify or defend or ennoble ourselves. We're after truth, however hard. We're hoping our words will serve others. If we're seekers, we may even be writing ourselves toward God, that He may further shape and author us, allowing us to find ourselves in His story and Him in ours.” Leslie Leyland Fields

Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom shall I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here am I. Send me.” Isaiah 6.8

Closing Prayer – singing over you

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. -Dan Schutte

***The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And give you peace. Amen.***

Soul Strong Sisters! I miss you already and I sincerely hope we can keep in touch in the days ahead. THANK YOU for walking through this “Soul Strong” journey with me. Love, Lucinda