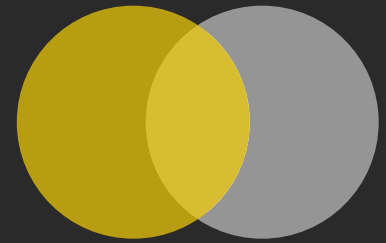


YOUR STORY MATTERS.



God is the author of your story and he never writes boring, worthless stories. Believe it or not, your story has the power to rewrite the ending of someone else's!

STEP 1: BRAINSTORM USING THE 5H'S

Your testimony is more than just the story of the time that you decided to follow Jesus. God has written all sorts of chapters and even now is writing a new chapter of your story. What has God brought you through? What life experiences have shaped your character? What is He teaching you now?

Use the 5H tool to brainstorm the pivotal seasons, people, and circumstances of your story.

STEP 2: ORGANIZE THAT INFORMATION INTO CHAPTERS

It may not be often that you'll have an opportunity to share your entire biography with someone but if you keep your eyes open, you'd be surprised at how often you have the opportunity to share a chapter.

Take the information from your 5H tool and organize it into the most important chapters of your story.

STEP 3: ENVISION AREAS OF OVERLAP

God wants to do something in you so He can do something through you. Your unique experiences coupled with your unique circle of influence means that you are uniquely positioned to be used by God. No one else can do it for you. **Look for the overlap**, where your story intersects the story of someone you know. How could you share a chapter to bring comfort or encouragement?

Use the chapters you created in Step 2 to think of situations in which your story could overlap with others.

STEP 1: BRAINSTORM USING THE 5H'S

HERITAGE How were you raised? How did that influence who you've become?



HEROES What relationships have been pivotal in your life and shaped your character?



HIGH POINTS When have you felt the most joy? What did you learn during those seasons?



HARD TIMES What have been your lowest points in life? Did you have people to support you?



HAND OF GOD When have you seen God work specifically in your life?



STEP 2:

ORGANIZE THAT INFORMATION INTO CHAPTERS

EXAMPLE *Chapter 4: Marriage Restored.*

Our marriage was at rock bottom. We were strongly considering divorce (hard times) but we decided that if we made a commitment to God, we needed to give it one more chance. Our small group leaders really came along side us (heroes) and we saw God bring so much healing it's hard to fully understand. (hand of God)

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 3

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 5

CHAPTER 6

CHAPTER 7

STEP 3:

ENVISION AREAS OF OVERLAP

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, **so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.**

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

EXAMPLE *Chapter 4: Marriage Restored*

1) People whose marriages are struggling 2) People who are wondering how much their support could really mean to a friend 3) People who are struggling to believe that God could really change a seemingly hopeless situation

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 3

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 5

CHAPTER 6

CHAPTER 7