

BelPres Membership – Writing/Sharing Your Life Story

For those who choose to become members, one of the requirements is to write and share (in a small group setting) your life story - essentially describing your relationship with Jesus Christ and how Jesus has been at work in your life.

Here's some guidance as you craft your life story:

As we talked about as we walked through the gospel, our life story, in many ways, ought to reflect the gospel story – Creation, Fall, Redemption & New Creation (see guideline below)

Ideally, your faith statement should be roughly one page long.

As for sharing your life story, we know that it can be a little scary to share about yourself in front of people you don't know very well. Try not to worry about it (easier said than done, of course). Use the questions below as a guide, but please know, we want you to share at the level you're comfortable with. Above all, sharing your story isn't an opportunity to pass a test – rather, it's an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to the way that Jesus has been at work in your life.

Please let me know if you have any questions (I'll send a couple more emails as we get closer to the date). Thanks!

Here are some key themes and questions to consider:

Creation

Key Themes

Origin, Identity

Key Gospel Question

Who or what most shaped your understanding of yourself?

What were the sources of your sense of personal value and identity?

Questions to Consider

Where were you born and what was going on in your family at the time?

Talk about relationships with your family members

Early on, who and what were some of the main influences in your life?

Fall

Key Themes

Brokenness, Blame

Key Gospel Question

How was your relationship with God and others not the way God created it to be? Why?

Questions to Consider

What were some of your most painful experiences?

How did you respond to the pain?

What was broken in your life? Relationships? Behavior? Attitudes? Health?

Who was the blame for this brokenness?

How did you try to fix the brokenness? Where those efforts effective?

Redemption

Key Themes

Rescue, Deliverance

Key Gospel Question

How has Jesus redeemed and rescued you through his death on the cross?

How did you come to put your faith and trust in Him to save you and restore your life to the way God intended it to be?

Questions to Consider

What people or things failed you?

How did the Spirit lead you to put your faith in Jesus? Did he use people, the Bible, a supernatural experience, difficult circumstances, a powerful message?

What were some of the effects of your belief in Jesus? How did you begin to experience God restoring you back to the way you were originally created?

New Creation

Key Themes

Hope, Transformation

Key Gospel Question

What has changed and is changing in your life now?

Who and what is the focus of your life today?

Questions to Consider

What are you hoping to change next week, month, year, 10 years?

Who is the focus of your preferred vision of the future?

What are some of the specific ways you've seen the Spirit make you more like Jesus?

What aspect of the new heavens and new earth are you most excited about?

