

# Week 3 – The Power of Story

## Introduction

- Last week we looked at how we can move the connections we have made for Jesus into a deeper relationship
- This week is all about telling our own story at the right time and in the right way
- Some Christians tell their own story but in a very off-putting way – if we aren't careful we can be
  - long winded
  - fuzzy
  - speak in religionese or Christianese
  - sound superior
- when telling our own story succinctly and effectively the best approach is often the *'before and after'* pattern
- it's also good to have some illustrations up your sleeve – maybe
  - the Bridge Diagram
  - DO versus DONE
  - The Morality Ladder
- Follow Jesus' example
  - Bridging the Chasm
  - Asking questions
  - Practicing patience
  - Beware of *'rabbit trails'*
  - Giving hope to the hopeless
- Finally we'll look at writing our own story

## Good stories – bad stories

1. In this week's video we say the telling of some really bad stories

- the **Long-winded** story that went on....and on...and on...
- the **Fuzzy** story that never seemed to get to the point
- The **Religionese** story that was laden with Christian jargon
- The **Superiority** story full of pious superior language

Which one bothered you the most – and why?

2. We also heard some good stories at the end of the video – what are the common factors that made them worth telling – and worth hearing?

3. In 1 Corinthians 2.14-16 Paul says this –

*“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, ‘Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”*

Based on Paul's advice why is it important for followers of Jesus to be able to tell their faith stories in a simple, succinct and humble manner to people who are spiritually unconvinced?

## Putting together your story

Just like the biblical characters that encountered Jesus we all have a 'before-and-after' faith story. The following sections will help you put together your personal faith story. Get into pairs and work through questions 4-7 with your partner.

4. **Your 'Before'** - What type of person were you before you met Christ? On the lines below write down 5 to 10 adjectives that come to mind (not necessarily all bad but be honest!).

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. From these words which is the one word that best summarizes your 'before' state?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Your Encounter** - Now try to describe the circumstances that caused you to submit your life to Jesus Christ? Alternatively if you don't have a single moment when you gave your life to Jesus, when was the moment that you finally realised that you were a Christian and that this was vital to the rest of your life? What stage of life were you in? What was it that finally triggered your desire to ask Christ into your life or to realise that he was your Lord? What was the most significant thing about your making this decision?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Your 'After'** – now try to state the *primary difference* that Christ has made in your life.

Since Christ came into my life, I've become \_\_\_\_\_

---

8. Are you ready to tell your story? Have a member of your group as you tell your before and after story. (Don't forget to mention one or two areas in your life that the Lord is still refining – nobody has 'arrived' – it's important to acknowledge this reality.)

## During the next fortnight

9. To get better at telling God's story select one illustration from the list below to practice on your own (there are summaries of each on the next sheets).

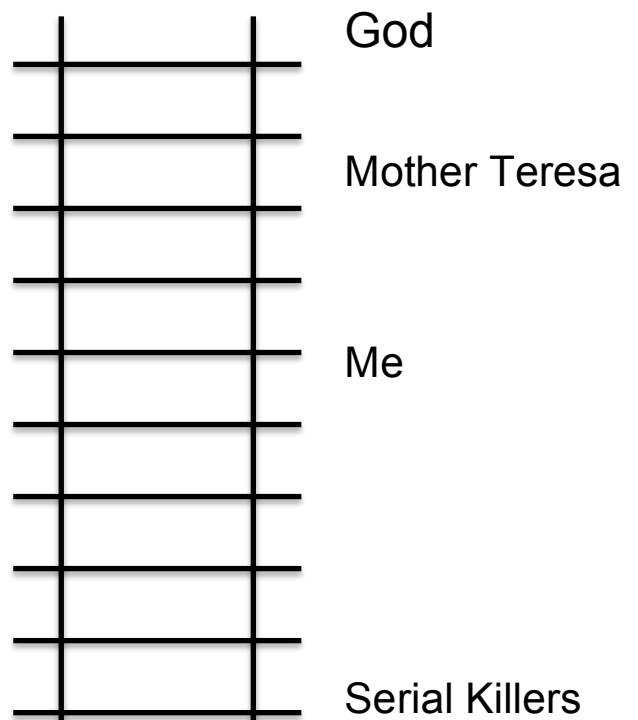
- The Bridge
- 'Do' vs 'Done'
- The Morality Ladder

10. Ask the Lord for an opportunity to share your story and maybe one of these illustrations with a friend or contact.

## "Do" vs "Done"

Do  
-----  
Done

## The Morality Ladder



# The Bridge

