

Sharing Our Stories

Intro:

- Cast vision for what Lifegroup is: a community of believers who do life together and push each other to know Jesus more by reading his word, praying together, and worshipping together.
- Set the tone as a more somber and sacred night.

“Lifegroup this week will look a little different. We want this time and this group to be more than just a study session. Studying the word is crucial to growing to know Christ better. So is community. In order to help each other grow, we need to know each other. Tonight each of us will have the opportunity to share our stories.”

Fully loved:

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God.

It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.” – Tim Keller

It’s easiest to share 90% of ourselves. We think “but if they know this last little bit, they would not love me”. All of us have a 10%. It’s that part of our stories that we keep hidden from everyone else. But we cannot be *fully loved* by each other until we are *fully known*. Sharing our 10% does not mean sharing every personal detail. You have to decide how much of it is appropriate to talk about during our time.

How:

Leaders, you will go first. You will give your Lifegroup the gift of going second. How you model honesty and vulnerability will set the bar for when everyone else shares. Be brave and share your 10%, even if this is *your* first time ever sharing it. God fully knows you and fully loves you. Your identity is in Christ, not in the reputation you hold among those you lead.

Depending on the number of people in your group, you will have to determine how long each person can speak. Set a timer for each person!

We want to create space for vulnerability while still respecting everyone’s time. The 4 H’s help tell our stories.

Heritage – where you came from / upbringing

Heroes – significant figures in your life

Highlights – believers can share how they came to know and follow Jesus in this part

Hardships – trials faced in life, past or present

Helpful reminders to share

- It doesn’t have to be perfect. For some of you this might be the first time sharing your story. It’s ok if isn’t perfectly polished.
- The temptation is to compare our stories. But God created all of us to be unique, including our stories. Each of your lives happened exactly how God intended it to be. No story is better or worse than another.
- Not everyone in the Lifegroup is a believer. Be sensitive in how much you ask a non-believer to talk about their faith journey.
- Encourage every person before and after they share so they feel cared for. Acknowledge bravery and courage.

Closing:

- End on a high note. Celebrate what God has done in all of our lives already and what he will continue to do in your Lifegroup going forward.
- Leave an open door for questions. Encourage the Lifegroup to keep being vulnerable with each other and to ask more questions outside of Lifegroup over lunch or coffee or basketball.
- Challenge each person in LG to ask 3 people not in LG about their spiritual journey.

PRAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS (FALL GETAWAY!)