

# My Story for His Glory

## The Worksheet

We are all made in God's image and living in God's world. Therefore, whether we know it or not, we are all in God's story. He is the one who defines reality. He is the original Author and the final Interpreter. Though, in our sin, we try to recast, redefine, or even rewrite this story for ourselves, we can't escape it. Men may scoff at the Bible's presentation of the world, but they will, nevertheless, find themselves living within it. Because of this, the basic narrative arc of the biblical story (Creation → Fall → Redemption → Consummation) runs underneath and speaks eloquently into our own twisted version of things. When a person comes to Christ, it's as if his own version of the story—perhaps a version he's been telling himself for years—finally breaks down and merges with The True Story as God would tell it. We see our sin for what it is, our idols for what they are, and God as the only one who can truly save and satisfy us in Christ. The following worksheet is designed to help you identify how God has so graciously done this with you!

<p><b>Creation</b></p> <p><i>Before coming to Christ, what was your life like? What were you longing for? What were you looking for? What were you living for?</i></p>	
<p><b>Fall</b></p> <p><i>What kept you from the things you were longing for? What were the big problems you were trying to fix? How was your heart and life broken? Where did you feel empty? What was wrong?</i></p>	
<p><b>Redemption</b></p> <p><i>How were you attempting to fix the brokenness and fill the emptiness? Where did you turn for help? Who/what were you trusting in for "salvation"? What were your idols, your false "gods"?</i></p>	
<p><b>Consummation</b></p> <p><i>How did your idols let you down? What resulted from your misplaced faith in them? How were you led to trust Christ in the fallout? What influences of grace were running alongside your "hell-bound race" all along?</i></p>	

<p><b>The True Story</b></p> <p><i>How did the gospel—the good news concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—reorient your story within The True Story of God? How did Jesus address your longings, your brokenness, and your hope for help and restoration? What has changed as a result?</i></p>	
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### Creation

- **Key Words:** *Longings, Thirsts, Purpose, Pride*
- **Commentary:** We've all been created in the image of God—to know him, love him, reflect him, live for him. We are created beings, and we need relationship with our Creator. Life will not make sense or work without him, though still we try. But we can't escape it. Embedded in our hearts we have these longings for things only God can ultimately give us—thirsts only he can ultimately quench. What were some of these longings and thirsts that, looking back now, seem especially prominent in your story (e.g. were you longing for a sense of identity, justification, worth, comfort, peace, joy, love, success, approval, praise, pleasure)? What were you living for? What was your life all about? How were you trying to write your own story?
- **Read:** Genesis 1-2; Jeremiah 2:11-13

### Fall

- **Key Words:** *Obstructions, Curse, Suffering, Sin*
- **Commentary:** We all know that something is wrong here. Before coming to Christ we typically locate the cause of the problem somewhere outside of us. We blame other people, circumstances, etc. for our lives not working the way we think they should. We don't see God's true version of the story—that men and women (ourselves included) have fallen from him in sin and the world is under a curse because of it. Instead, we keep telling our twisted versions of it—directing blame elsewhere and protecting ourselves. What would you have identified as the reason things in your life weren't right? What was obstructing you from fully satisfying the longings of your heart? How was the Fall manifesting itself in your story? How was the curse messing up your plans?
- **Read:** Genesis 3; Romans 1:18-32

### Redemption

- **Key Words:** *Idols, False Gospels, Faith, Hope*
- **Commentary:** Even before coming to Christ a person has faith. The question is never *whether* someone has faith or not but *where* he/she is placing that faith. We all sense our longings, and experience the obstructions, but each of us has our own idea as to what will actually fix the problem. What "good news", what "savior", what "god" were you placing your faith in before Christ? When we place our faith in people or things to give us what only God can, the Bible calls those things "idols." What were your idols? What was it that you believed: "If I could only get \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. a spouse, a career, money, looks, etc.), then my life would be as it should be—I would have heaven on earth"? Where were you placing your hope for redemption?
- **Read:** Hosea 2; Luke 15:11-32

### Consummation

- **Key Words:** *Fallout, Letdown, Brokenness, Repentance*
- **Commentary:** We look to idols to rescue and, ultimately, restore us. But they never deliver on their promises. They cannot hold the weight of our expectations. They cannot satisfy our deepest longings. In the end, our misplaced faith in them, far from repairing our brokenness, only further aggravates it. When this happens, some move on to different idols, hoping for different results. But others, by God's sovereign and intervening grace, are brought out of this vicious spiral and led to the foot of the cross. How did this happen for you? In what ways was God pursuing you all along? What people, events, circumstances, Scripture texts, etc. did God use to open your eyes to your need for Jesus and his redeeming work at Calvary?
- **Read:** John 4; Acts 9:1-22

### The True Story

- **Key Words:** *Jesus, Cross, Salvation, Life*
- **Commentary:** Jesus changes everything! He renews us in God's image, satisfies our longings, lifts us from the fall, redeems us from the curse, and will soon return to restore all things fully and finally! What has Jesus changed for you? Please do not feel pressured to give the impression that all is perfect now. We know that it is not. Until the final restoration, sadly, we will all still have much to do with sin and suffering. But, nonetheless, something fundamental has shifted for you. How would you describe it? What is your life like now, living in The True Story of God? All of us, in one way or another, because of Jesus, can sing along with the words of this song: "I once was lost in darkest night / Yet thought I knew the way / The sin that promised joy and life / Had led me to the grave / I had no hope that you would own / A rebel to your will / And if you had not loved me first / I would refuse you still / But as I ran my hell-bound race / Indifferent to the cost / You looked upon my helpless state / And led me to the cross / And I beheld God's love displayed / You suffered in my place / You bore the wrath reserved for me / Now all I know is grace / Hallelujah! All I have is Christ / Hallelujah! Jesus is my life." Are you singing?!
- **Read:** Ephesians 2:1-10; Revelation 5