

CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, and RESTORATION

Every person has these four parts in their story...let's take a minute and look at each part:

CREATION

Everyone has a fundamental belief about our origin – who or what gave us our existence, made us who we are, shaped us into the person we are today.

The Key Question here is: Who or What do you credit for who you are?

FALL

There is a reason for why people, community and the world is broken. Each person has a fundamental belief about the cause of brokenness and has a deep desire for Justice in the form of Righteous Judgment. People blame their parents, family, friends, boss, government etc...for what they've become AND want justice by putting the blame on someone else for the pain and brokenness in the world. Everyone has a "Fall Guy" mentality – Someone is to blame and someone deserves punishment.

The Key Question here is: Why are things and people not the way they are supposed to be and who is to blame for it?

REDEMPTION

Everyone has a solution they believe in, a remedy they look to or savior they believe in to redeem the brokenness in their life and world. Many are looking to a philosophy. Others look to a plan for self-improvement or personal growth. Many believe some kind of reform in education or politics will change things. Everyone believes in a Redeemer or in a Self-Improvement plan of sorts.

The Key Question is: Who or what will rescue me and redeem what is broken?

RESTORATION

Every person has a picture of the future when everything is as it should be...or how they *hope* it will be. Some see a utopia with humans all living at peace with one another. Others believe Mother Earth and humanity will be one. Still others see another world they will go to where they will be at the center. Some people's future hope is to be married...have children...get a job...be rich...etc...Everyone wants something better...restoration of what they believe their world should be like.

The Key Question here is: What will the world or your world look like when all is as it should be AND Who or what will be the focus of this world?

Putting Together Your Gospel Story

Remember, YOUR story is a part of the ULTIMATE Story—God’s Story. Even though you are telling your story here, it should end up more focused on God and how Jesus rescued and saved you. You should not end up looking like the hero in this story—God should be the hero!

CREATION

How did your life begin? Where were you born? Tell briefly about your family, parents, how many brothers and/or sisters you have and what really began to shape who YOU were becoming as a person before you began to be a disciple of Jesus’.

The Key Question here is: Who or What most shaped who you thought you were, and where you got your real value and “identity” in life from?

Tell a little bit about what shaped you into the person you were becoming. Something that gave you your “identity”, something really good or really bad that happened early in your life. The influence of good or bad friends, music and films... a particular group of friends etc.

FALL

What was happening in your life that was “broken”—NOT the way God created it and you to be? Relationships? Health? Respect for parents, teachers, your self? What types of sins were you falling into and what were the effects of this? Be sure to include specific sins from your life (*behaviors and attitude sins*). What types of things (other than trusting God) did you try to use to “fix” your life...but they didn’t work? Include something you had been looking to “save” you in your life that ultimately failed.

The Key Question here is: Why was your relationship with God and others, (and anything else in your life), NOT the way it was supposed to be? (Like God created it...)

Who or what were you ultimately blaming this on when you came to realize it was really your own sin that had messed everything up? Remember to connect your sins with the Story of God—“All rebellion against God and his ways is sin.”

REDEMPTION

Explain how the sins you mentioned above, and the effects of these sins in your life, were rescued and redeemed by Jesus. Connect specific sins to specific parts of the Story of God and how Jesus’ life, death and resurrection have redeemed and restored those parts of your life back to the way God created them to be.

The Key Question is: How has Jesus paid the penalty for your sins (when He died on the Cross) and how you came to put your faith and trust in Him to save you and restore your life to the way God intended it to be?

Be sure to include how you came to find out about and know Jesus, and place your trust in Him and receive his forgiveness and new life.

RESTORATION

What is happening in your life now? God has redeemed you from the penalty of your sins and is now restoring you from the affects of past sins. How is God changing you, using you, speaking to you now?

The Key Question here is: What has changed and is changing in your life now? AND... Who and what is the focus of your life today?

Be sure to include at least two examples of how the Gospel (Jesus at work in your life) is changing and restoring your life, relationships (with God and others) or any other part of your life that is being restored. This is where the Good News of the Gospel and what Jesus has done shows up in your everyday life. Also include a little about your hope in eternal life...now you will live forever with Jesus!

Story Tips

- Make your story about 3-5 minutes long
- Don't get "preachy" or "churchy" in your story, but tell your real story
- Use normal, every day language to tell your story
- Keep God and Jesus the "main characters" in your story...don't focus on how "bad" you were and all the things you did wrong—make Jesus look awesome in your story!
- Don't worry about what others will think of your story—remember—it's YOUR story, they can't really argue with what has happened in your life 😊
- Don't try and tell every single truth about God or the Bible in your story. Let people ask questions as you go or at the end and then fill in the details
- Practice telling your story with close friends and family so you will be prepared when needed
- Pray silently to God before and during the telling of your story, asking Him to make sense of it to others and to use your life and story for His glory—God is the one who changes people!

Good Opportunities to Tell Your Story

- When your relationship with someone goes beyond superficial
- When friends start to ask you questions about your life and past
- When someone asks you a "spiritual" or "religious" questions
- When Jesus or church or religion comes up in conversation
- When a friend is having hard times or serious life problems
- When someone is curious about why you are different or seem to be at peace
- When you feel like you are getting more serious in a relationship and you want to test where the other person is at in their beliefs
- When God (through the Spirit) is prompting you to share your faith with someone...your story is a PERFECT way to start!

My Story

Creation

Fall

Redemption

Restoration