

# YOUR STORY

Our story is God's story alive in us. The gospel of Jesus Christ is making eternal changes and we get to share how He is transforming our lives. In one of the weekly discussions, you'll be given the opportunity to share your 3-5 minute faith story with your group. Even if you're not yet a follower of Christ, you have a story to share.

Working through this card will help you to discover and deliver your story. Our story can be broken down into three parts: Before, Commitment, After. Spending some time reflecting on these questions and using this framework will help to keep your story concise, clear and compelling:

## **BEFORE:**

- Before knowing Jesus, what was your life focused on? What were you most concerned about? How did you deal with setbacks or failures? What gave you credit for who you were? In what ways were you dissatisfied with life?
- Additionally, if you've believed since childhood, was there a season when your faith was deepened or became more real to you?
- If you are not a follower of Jesus, what is your life most focused on now?

## **COMMITMENT:**

- When did Jesus disrupt your life? What led up to it? What happened? How did the gospel message compel you to trust Jesus and into a deeper relationship with Him?
- What was it like surrendering to Jesus as Lord?
- If this hasn't happened, you may consider answering: Who is Jesus to you today? or What led you to you to this Rooted experience?

## **AFTER:**

- What is one difference trusting and following Jesus has made in your life (identity, confidence, peace, hope, purpose, healthy relationships, freedom, etc.)? What are you still learning today? How is God helping you experience freedom and abundant living? Why is trusting Jesus worth it?
- Additionally, if you've believed since childhood, describe how your relationship with God has changed over the years and seasons? How has God formed you to become more like Christ?
- If you are seeking out what following Jesus is all about, please share what you hope to get out of this Rooted experience.

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Using the questions from the other side, try writing a few lines for each section below.

**BEFORE:** focus of your life before Christ and how you realized you needed Him

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**COMMITMENT:** Share why, how and when you decided to trust and follow Jesus

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**AFTER:** Describe the specific differences in your life (attitudes, thinking, motives, relationships, etc.) because of knowing, trusting, and living in Christ.

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Here are some tips for making your story compelling and Christ-centered:

- Your story should point to change - Does your story clearly convey a transformation? Does your story share the impact the Gospel has had on your "before" and "after"?
- Your story should point to Jesus and His work in your life. It's not important to share every life event, but rather how your experiences led to your surrender to Christ. Is Jesus the central character in your story or are you?
- Practice your story by sharing it with family, friends, or your Life Group.
- Remember that God is not done writing your story, so you may find that as you practice sharing your story, God will bring other pieces about your journey that you can share with others.