



Tell it Well: Share | August 16, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

When we view our lives as simply our own stories it ends up empty, but when we see our stories in relation to God's they have beauty and purpose.

Key Verse

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Discussion

Each of our lives are filled with events that reflect the larger story being told through our lives. We are often inclined to keep these events to ourselves and not seek out common events in the lives of those around us. When we don't share our stories and avoid learning from others, it becomes exceedingly difficult to feel connected to God and others.

1. What are some events in your life that you think are relatable to others? Why?
2. Is it difficult for you to share your story with others? If so, why do you think that is? If not, what makes it easier for you?

In her book, *Tell It Well*, Jennifer Spoelma says that the world misses out on something significant when we keep our stories to ourselves. Once we have discovered and owned our stories, the next step is to share them. The first step in sharing our stories is not to start talking about our favorite topic: ourselves, but rather to engage with, listen to, and learn from with those around us.

3. What are some ways you can begin to share your story with others by engaging, listening, and learning?
4. What are some parts of your story that you believe others would benefit from hearing?

Galatians 5:22-23 gives us a roadmap for living alongside others and earning the right to be heard. If we seek to share the impact that Jesus has had and is having in our lives, start by earning the right to be heard. Intentionally deciding to live alongside others while experiencing the highs and lows of life is a clearer picture of how Jesus lived his life. When we are living out our stories with others, they will may come to better know Jesus by the way we live out our stories with love, joy, and peace.

5. What are some tangible ways you can earn the right to share your story with others?
6. What are some ways that you reflect Jesus in the way that you live? Is there anything you could do differently?

What's Next?

This week consider how to tell your story well and how you can share your life well with others. Call up an old friend or sit down with a stranger. Live alongside people and get better at asking questions about their lives and finding common threads in both of your lives. If you are searching for meaning in your life, decided to invest in the lives of others. Discovering, owning, and sharing your story are the key steps to telling your story well.