

# WEEK 9: WHY AND HOW SHOULD I TELL OTHERS?

*Objective: Better understand the need of our damaged world for the restorative power of Jesus Christ and how our story of faith can bring about that desired healing.*

## PRAYER POINTS

- Everyone in Rooted will be ignited with a passion to share their faith as a way of sharing the Good News.
- Passion would not intimidate but excite people to be bold in sharing their faith.
- God will give everyone opportunities to tell their stories of faith this week.
- Ask those who have not committed to Christ to share more about their journey and what brought them to Rooted.
- You would be able to finish conversations from last week and still cover this week's topic well.
- You would be a bold leader, challenging people to set aside their fears when it comes to sharing their stories and that you can hold them accountable.
- As people share about how they told their faith story this week, they will keep it to two to three minutes in length.

## LEADER PREPARATION:

- Come prepared to share how you told your faith story with someone recently to model this to the group.
- Prepare the future Life Group leader to help lead the group this week and invite them to join you at facilitator training.
- Manage the time so everyone will have the opportunity to share about their experience this week.
- Review your notes on group members to see if there are any clarifying questions you want to ask as you prepare to give Affirmation Prayers next week.
- Read *What People Are Really Thinking When They Invite You to Church* found in the Appendix.

# GROUP TIME

## 15 minutes - Welcome and Reconnection Time

- Explain that the future Life Group leader will be helping to lead this week's session.
- Where did God meet you this week? Surprise you?
- Talk about your experience of sharing your faith story with someone this week.

## 15 minutes - Introductory Questions

- What is a great adventure you have taken? Did you have any fear on the journey?
- What is a dangerous thing you have done?
- Did you share your faith? How was that experience for you?

## 30 minutes - Discussion

### The theme- **Sharing Your Story**

Explain to your group that they will each be seeking an opportunity to share their faith story with someone this week. During group time, practice sharing your faith story. Each story should take a maximum of two to three minutes, ensuring an opportunity for each person in the group to share as well as react to each story.

Be sensitive to those in the group who may not be believers. They have a story. And it matters. Make sure to communicate that so they don't feel isolated during this week. Encourage them to share about a time they felt there was something bigger than themselves or experienced true community, love and acceptance.

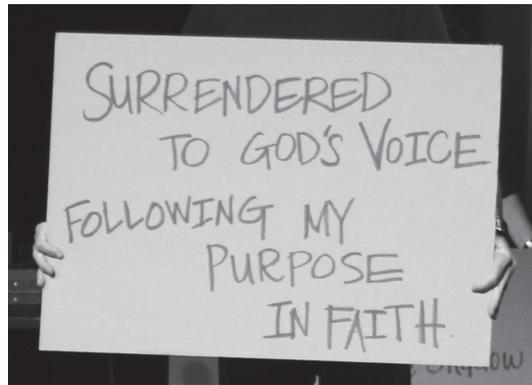
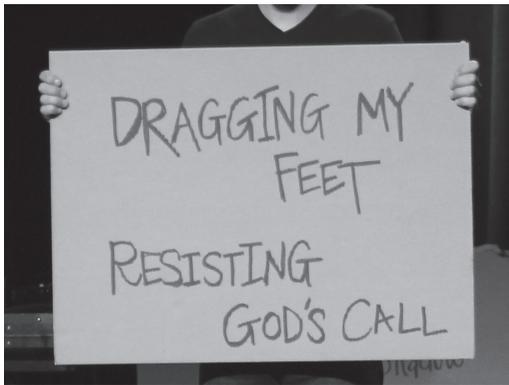
Discuss how group members will be sharing their stories with someone in their life. Explore the idea of loving and knowing our neighbors. If they don't know their neighbors, encourage them to simply take a step of introducing themselves. In His timing, God will provide opportunities for them to tell their stories of faith.

- Talk about fears that might be associated with sharing their stories. Use the "neighbor map" found in the appendix to write down the names of their neighbors.
- Provide the challenge and lean into it. The goal *is not* that every person who shares leads someone to Christ, but that everyone follows His leading and shares his or her faith with someone this week.
- Talk through the importance of prayer and the Holy Spirit when we share our story. Remind them that our responsibility is to go where God leads us. The results of the conversation and the condition of the heart of the receiver are God's responsibility.
- Assure your group you will be praying for them and communicating with them to encourage them.

### 30 minutes - Cardboard Testimonies

After stories, give everyone an index card (provided) and ask them to write two or three words about where they were when they began the Rooted journey 10 weeks ago, then on the other side, where God has them today. “Ten weeks ago, I was...” then “Today, I am...”

Have each person share what they wrote. Start by modeling for your group where you were 10 weeks ago and where you are today.



Watch a video of more cardboard testimonies at [www.vimeo.com/4119793](http://www.vimeo.com/4119793)

### 20 minutes - Prayer Requests and Closing

- Help people define where they are and where they need to go spiritually. If any group members have not been baptized, find out if they would like to do this at the Rooted celebration.
- You can pray as a whole group or break into prayer partners.
- Remind everyone of the importance of confidentiality.
- Remember to thank the Life Group leader who helped lead the group tonight.
- Cover any details necessary for the Rooted Celebration and the upcoming opportunity to be baptized.

## WORKBOOK REVIEW

### Why and How Should I Tell Others?

The focus this week is on knowing the story of our relationship with Jesus and how to effectively tell others so that they may begin a relationship with Him.

#### Day 1 Getting the Word Out

- What comes to your mind when you think of evangelism?
- What's the biggest challenge you face in sharing your faith?
- Have you ever shared your faith with someone else?
- If you've done so, how did it go? If you haven't, why not?
- Who are three people in your life that don't know God?

#### Day 2 God's Story

- What do you think of God's story?
- Are there any parts you disagree with, or are there any parts that confuse you?
- Do you think you could write down from memory the major point of each of the four parts?

#### Days 3 & 4 Your Story

- How do you feel about telling your story to others?
- How does this (telling your before-and-after story) affect how you think about evangelizing?

#### Day 5 Time to Share

- Where are you meeting the needs of others? Have there been opportunities to share your faith in these situations?
- Remember the three people you have been praying for. Share your story of faith with them in a way that is relevant and succinct.
- Pray about whom you can invite to the next session of Rooted.