

# Gospel Storying

## Purpose

Gospel storying is a practical tool that is to be used as a regular rhythm in MC life. It is a simple way of modeling and equipping believers to share their TRUE spiritual story under the authority of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Here are the two most impacting benefits of gospel storying on your MC culture.

1. ***Keeping the Gospel as a central theme of your MC culture.*** Gospel storying is a regular “re-centering” of your MC’s attention on the centrality of the gospel. These stories, when shared properly, encourage believers in their justification and in their sanctification.
2. ***Equips believers to see their life in God’s Larger Story and to be prepared to share their story with the Gospel as the storyline and Jesus as the main character.*** The more frequently gospel stories are shared, the more anchored they become centered in the Gospel.

## Definition

A Gospel Story is a believer’s story of how they came to new life through Jesus by understanding their past, present, and future spiritual life through the lens of God’s Larger Story.

## Re-writing Your Story

Four critical components of the Gospel should form the “storyline” of every believer’s Gospel Story. Instead of the circumstances of one’s life being the defining points, the circumstances surrounding the finished work of Christ become the defining points.

### Creation

Your Gospel Story must begin with the truth of God as the Creator, owner, and final authority over your life. Without this, you would have never accepted what the Father did through and declared about His Son, Jesus Christ.

- **Considerations:** Creation addresses your foundational beliefs and your view of God/self/people. It is the most significant truth that impacts your personal identity. As an unbeliever, informed and led by the flesh, you embraced faulty beliefs that did not line up with the truth, and you could not become a believer until you came to terms with the Biblical view of God demonstrated in Creation.
- **Questions:**
  1. How would you describe your pre-saved life as it you demonstrated independence from God and His authority?
  2. How has your background (Childhood, parents, culture, friends, religious background, beliefs, values) led You to a certain identity?

## Fall

Your Gospel Story must acknowledge the folly of your life and how you fell short of God's righteous standard because of how you patterned your life after your forefather Adam.

- **Considerations:** The Fall points to the issue of how you have struggled, over the course of your unsaved life, to fix your life from your brokenness and sin. It addresses both the deep issue of your personal brokenness due to your independence from God and the corresponding blame/consequence for your brokenness.
- **Questions:**
  1. How did you, using your own strength, wisdom, manipulation, etc., respond to and try to fix your brokenness?
  2. Who or what did you look to as a "savior" or an idol, and how did it / they fail to save?
  3. How did your life choices oppose God and bring you under his condemnation?

## Redemption

Your Gospel Story then leads to the point in history where you recognized <sup>1</sup>your sin, <sup>2</sup>the substitutionary work of Jesus' death for your sins, and <sup>3</sup>the work of God alone in declaring you righteous and in right relationship with Him as a child in His family.

- **Considerations:** Movement toward redemption first addresses how you recognized that your life choices led you to a place of impending eternal death/separation from God. Next, it exults the substitutionary work of Jesus as the defining act in your story, the single greatest event that reconciled you into a right relationship with God and promised your eternal future with Him.
- **Questions:**
  1. How did you come to understand how Jesus was the true savior of your life and to place your personal faith in His work alone on your behalf?
  2. How did you come to understand that your justification/redemption placed you firmly in God's family forever?

## Restoration

Your Gospel Story will conclude with how your new-found place in the family of God and the promise of your future home in God's restored Kingdom are shaping your life today.

- **Considerations:** Restoration is all about how the power of the gospel re-shapes your thinking, functional beliefs, and lifestyle choices, placing them all under the lens of eternity. It powerfully seeks to re-orient your worldview to bring about a radical shift in the way you choose to live. Promises of an entirely new eternity are crucial in developing and sustaining this radically different Jesus-kind-of lifestyle.
- **Questions:**
  1. How has the gospel helped you pursue a personal relationship with Jesus (moving from justification and into a focus on your sanctification/personal walk with Him)?
  2. What's Jesus doing in your life now (in your living/working/playing) and how do you continue to look towards his eternal promises to motivate and sustain your life choices?