

THE POWER OF MY STORY

THE GOAL:

Do you like a good story? Jesus told amazing stories (parables) that helped people learn important truths for living. Throughout this year you have an opportunity to learn different ways to tell the story of Him. It will be like adding another tool in your faith toolbox each Training Week you attend. Not all of your friends are the same are they? Haven't they had different experiences and don't they face different problems? The goal of these studies this year is to help guide you in your ongoing faith conversation with friends and to train you in an assortment of ways to help let them know of how they can have a personal relationship with God.

The ability to tell your friends what God has done and continues to do in your life is very important. The reason is that they can learn that God can and wants to do the same kind of incredible things in them. Also, the time you spend now remembering how this relationship with Him has changed your life will lead you to love Him more and make you courageous as you talk to your friends about Jesus.

GEAR UP:

THE OLD

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone;..."

Write about your memories of what life was like for you before you became a follower of Jesus. Unhealthy attitudes, habits and thoughts? What about feelings of despair, loneliness or hopelessness? Any other issues?

THE NEW

"...a new life has begun!" II Corinthians 5:17

How did you learn about God's love for you, about how sin separates us from Him, of how Jesus' death paid the sin price and the importance of your faith in Him? Why did you make a decision to follow Christ? Did a friend, your parents or someone at a church help you in the process? Was it at a summer camp or at a First Priority Club?

THE NOW

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6

Now, let's think about what life has been like while living for God. How has He answered prayers, met needs or worked miracles in your life? Any difference between the old life separated from God and the new life in Christ?

GO FOR IT:

Okay, it's time to get ready to use this tool and to see how powerful your story can be when God shows up. Look for opportunities to practice telling it to family members and friends. The more comfortable you are in sharing your God story, the easier it will be when the opportunity comes your way to tell someone who needs Jesus! And you know what, no one can argue with the power of a changed life! (Check out how the Apostle Paul tells his story in Acts 26:4-23)