



STUDY GUIDE April 23, 2023

**Message Series:** Now What?  
**Message Title:** Tell Your Story  
**Teaching Pastor:** Brian Hughes

**Warm-up/Icebreaker:** (10 min).

What topic do you enjoy talking about the most?

**Pray:**

Lord, we praise You for Who You are - all-knowing, all-powerful, loving and good. We invite You to join our time together and to speak to our hearts and show us what You want us to learn. Help us to be humble and teachable and to really lean into whatever it is You have for us today. We thank You for the gift of Your Word, Your Son and Your Spirit. Let everything we say and do today be honoring to You. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Get Started:** (20 min.)

*"The question I want us to consider today is, in the wake of Easter - with the reality of the resurrection of Jesus fresh on our minds - are we at least equally excited about...that? We came face-to-face with something that should change our lives more than anything else - including marriage, kids and grandkids. But while we talk about all of those things, do we ever talk about THE thing. Do we talk about THE thing that changed your life more than anything else. By we, I really mean you." - Pastor Brian*

- How comfortable are you talking about Jesus? What holds you back?

**Read Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 3:15, Romans 1:16.**

- According to these verses, where does the power and boldness to share Christ come from? How (or in what manner) are we to share?
- Share a time where someone told you about Jesus OR you told someone else about Him. How did it play out?

*"But once you decide - once you give your life to Jesus, receive his forgiveness for your sin and his gift of life - that new life cannot be kept inside of you. Like the best news you know - like the pictures of the ring or the grandkids or the wedding. Like the stories of that epic trip and the recounting of the memories you made, like that hole-in-one you shot or that once in a lifetime trophy you brought home, you have to put on display your faith in Jesus. We do this through baptism - where we go public with our faith. But we also do it with our story." - Pastor Brian*

- *In two minutes or less, what is the story of your faith journey or your testimony of how you came to know Christ?*  
OR another option is the 15-second testimony approach:

Think of TWO WORDS that describe your life before you met Jesus.

Think of TWO WORDS that describe how Jesus changed your life.

Then share as follows: "There was a time in my life when I was (insecure) and (angry).

Then I met Jesus, put my trust in Him, and made Him number one in my life. Now I am (secure) and (full of joy). Do you have a story like this?"

**Watch and Discuss Video** (running time 10 minutes, 15 minute discussion)

Pastor Brian shares several ways we can declare our faith in Christ, including:

1. Believer's baptism
  2. Learn to tell your story
  3. Be different
  4. Know your "Just One"
  5. Mine for the "Open Door" and "Shareable Moments"
  6. Be patient
- Pick one of these that resonates with you personally (either because you have taken that step OR because you would like to take that step) and share with your group.

**Reflect and Commit:** (20 min.)

**Read 2 Timothy 1:8-10.**

- What sort of power does God offer to overcome being ashamed, according to verse 8? How does Paul's understanding of "the power of God" differ from that of many people today?
- In verses 9 and 10 what's the biggest encouragement to Timothy to still do his job?

*"Like the man born blind in John 9, people all around us are raising their eyebrows. We're not the same. Easter changed us. See, Jesus encountered that man when he was physically here, but because of Easter, we've been able to encounter the risen Jesus Christ, who has changed us as tangibly as a blind man who gets his sight. And we MUST invite people - in a way that isn't overbearing or threatening - we MUST invite them to know **why we are different!** Jesus changed me...for the better...Jesus altered my life and altered my destiny. Why wouldn't I want to invite others to know the good news that has come to me? You have a story - a testimony - and the world will be better when we all learn to tell it." - Pastor Brian*

**Read Matthew 28:19-20.**

- As you read these verses, what comes to mind as something the Lord may be asking you to do? What can you do to follow through as a next step?

**Gather prayer requests and pray.** (5-10 min.)

**Pray:**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of salvation through your Son Jesus. Help us to be truly different because of Your finished work on the cross. Thank You that You have altered our destiny and altered our lives, changing us from the inside out. Help us to be willing to declare our faith in Christ to others by telling the story of what You've done in and through us. May we be faithful to give You all the glory and praise. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.