

MATERIALS

Story docs
Sticker takeaway
Discussion guides



PRAY IN ADVANCE

Spend some time praying that God would show the people in your groups that He is authoring their story and has great purpose for each and every chapter. Pray that they would be inspired to share what God has done in their lives with others.



OVERVIEW

You have a story and your story matters. God is the author and He never writes boring, worthless stories. In fact, your story has the power to rewrite the ending of someone else's. This week we will introduce the 5H's (heritage, heroes, high points, hard times, and hand of God moments). We will use the 5H's to brainstorm details from our story. We will then organize those details into chapters to help us be ready to share part of our story when the opportunity shows up. This training challenges us to **look for the overlap**, those moments when someone's struggle sounds familiar, because it may be a moment when God wants to use our story to offer comfort, encouragement, or hope.

INTRO (3 minutes)

Welcome everyone to the training and reinforce the Bless training.

"Welcome back for the third training session. Our hope is that you have been using the prayer calendar and have taken some intentional steps to invest time into the lives of the unbelievers you know. Continue to close the gap!"

Introduce the roadblock for today and state the goal for the training.

"Today's training is based on the roadblock, 'I don't know how to share the Gospel.' By the end of this training, our goal is that you would see that what God is doing in your story is an effective way of sharing the Gospel with the people around you."

ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Introduce the ice breaker.

"With the ideas of stories in mind, we are going to start off tonight by playing a game called,

'Stand up if you.' The rules are simple: I will read a statement, and you stand up if that statement applies to you. Let's play!"

STAND UP IF YOU HAVE...

1. ...been in the back of a cop car
2. ...shoplifted
3. ...texted someone when you were actually trying to text someone *about* that person
4. ...cheated on a test
5. ...used someone else's toothbrush
6. ...walked in on your parents 😬
7. ...gone on a bad date
8. ...broken up with someone over text
9. ...been broken up with over text
10. ...suddenly lost your job
11. ...ever had a dream fall apart and half to start over
12. ...struggled with loneliness even when surrounded by people
13. ...been deeply hurt by someone you trusted
14. ...been unable to pay a bill
15. ...ever had to forgive someone who never apologized
16. ...doubted God loved you

Now the tone changes to be more serious...

'We all have unique stories but look how much of our experiences we share in common. Behind every one of those 'stand ups' there's a story.'

Introduce Video 1

VIDEO 1 (4 minutes)

COMPLETE STEP 1 (10 minutes)

Give them time to brainstorm their 5 H's. Tell them that they may not finish during group time, but encourage them to complete it later. Read the room to know when it is time to start up Video 2.

VIDEO 2 (1 minutes)

LEADER SHARES A CHAPTER (7 minutes)

Go first and furthest by sharing one chapter from your story. You will be setting the pace for the group. The level of honesty and vulnerability that you demonstrate will show them what level of honesty and vulnerability they should demonstrate in their groups next week.

COMPLETE STEP 2 (8 minutes)

Give them time to brainstorm chapters. Remind them that they may not finish during group time, but encourage them to complete it later. Read the room to know when it is time to start up Video 3.

VIDEO 3 (2 minutes)

DISCUSSION (8 minutes)



DISCUSS

What areas of overlap do you see between what God has brought you through and what others are going through in their lives?

OUTRO (3 minutes)

Introduce the takeaway (overlap sticker) and remind people to look for the overlap.

"Take this sticker as a reminder that God can use you to rewrite the ending of someone else's story."

Make sure people have scheduled their group meeting time.

"Before you leave, make sure you schedule your next group meeting."

Hand out group discussion guides during this time.

Pray to close your time together.

TOTAL TIME (51 minutes)