

“Your Story is still being Written”

Series: “*Story*”

(Part 1 of 4)

Open: Answer one of the following questions: What was a highlight for you in 2009? What is one thing you are looking forward to in 2010?

Explore: Read Luke 18:35-43.

1. What was the blind man doing by the side of road (vs. 35-37)? What question did the man ask the crowd?
2. Once the man realized Jesus was passing by what did he call out (vs. 38-39)? How did the crowd respond to the man? How did the man respond to the crowd?
3. How did Jesus react when he heard the man’s voice (vs. 40-41)? If Jesus knew the man was blind, why do you believe Jesus asked the man what he wanted?
4. Ultimately, what healed the man (vs. 42-43)? How did the crowd respond?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. If every life is a story, how would you describe the recent chapters of your book: a) a love story, b) science-fiction, c) mystery, d) action, or other? Explain.
2. Read Jeremiah 1:5. How much thought have you given to the fact that God knew you before you were born and has a plan for your life?
3. Trials are a part of every person’s story. What was one of the greatest trials / challenges you faced in 2009? What do you think God was doing or teaching you through that experience?
4. No one likes to go through difficult circumstances, so why does the Bible tell us to “consider it pure joy” whenever we face trials? What could you say to or do for someone going through a difficult season?
5. James reminds us that all conflict in life will someday be resolved. In the meantime, how have you experienced God working all things together for good in this life?

Live:

As a group: (Sub-group into smaller groups of 2 or 3). Look over each one of the four truths mentioned in the lesson. Which of the four impressed you the most today? Explain. What will you do with this truth in the days and weeks ahead?

On your own: Memorize Romans 8:28-29. Thank God for watching over you and guiding your steps in the past. Resolve to trust God and persevere in the trials that may come.

Listening Guide Notes

Every life is a story.

Every Good Story contains...

1. Context.

“*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.*” –**Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)**

“*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.*”
–**Psalms 139:13 (NIV)**

TRUTH: I’m not here by mistake!

2. Conflict.

“*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*”
–**John 16:33 (NIV)**

^[2] “*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,*
^[3] *because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.*
^[4] *Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*” –**James 1:2-4 (NIV)**

TRUTH: This isn’t heaven.

3. Decision.

“*Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials ...*” –**James 1:2 (NIV)**

“*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*”
–**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

TRUTH: I can’t control all the circumstances in my story, but I can control how I respond to them.

4. Resolution.

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” –James 1:12 (NIV)

*[28] “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. [29] For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.”
–Romans 8:28-29 (NIV)*

*“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
–Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)*

TRUTH: No one can ruin my story except me.