

# Tell Me the Story!

By Shari Miller



Share your favorite childhood story with a partner or your small group. Why was it your favorite? How did the story make you feel?

During this study of God's Word, we will explore the true, biblical accounts of salvation in Jesus Christ alone, or in other words, His Story. We will also look at the apostle Paul's life story and how the Savior Jesus radically changed the direction of Paul's life journey. Finally, this study ends with a look at your personal faith story and how it connects with His Story.

Leader notes and Bible passages available at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)

## Opening Prayer

*Dear heavenly Father, we confess that we sin against You daily and deserve Your wrath and punishment for our disobedience. However, we rejoice that You sent Jesus to be our Savior from sin by His perfect life, suffering, and death in our stead. We thank You that our Life-giving Lord rose from the dead so that we too might rise again to life eternal. Please send Your Holy Spirit to be with us as we study Your life-changing Word. Help us to glorify Your name in our daily lives. In the name and for the sake of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

## H+S Story

"I love to tell the story 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love" are words from the refrain of a much-loved hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story." If you were asked to tell the "old, old story" of Jesus today, what highlights of His Story would you share? See the following Scripture passages for examples of telling Jesus' Story. Identify the proclaimer and the highlights of their proclamation.

**Acts 2:22–36** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 2:5–11** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 12:1–2** \_\_\_\_\_

Read together the words of the Second Article of The Apostles' Creed and its meaning taken from *Luther's Small Catechism* [page 21].

Read **John 1:1, 14**. Who is the Word?

See **John 20:30–31**. How does this passage declare that the Word of God is all about Jesus and His Story?

What characteristics does the Word of God — His Story — have according to **Hebrews 4:12**? \_\_\_\_\_

The Word of God is one of the Means of Grace that the Holy Spirit uses to create and nurture faith. The Sacraments (Baptism and The Lord's Supper) are also a Means of Grace. How do the Means of Grace used by the Holy Spirit change our lives? Be specific. \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Deuteronomy 11:18–21** and **Psalm 22:30–31**. Who needs to hear His Story? Write down in three sentences the story of Jesus that you would share.

## Faith Talk

Share that story with a partner or in your small group.

## Apostle Paul's Story = An Example

Read **Acts 22:1–21**, **1 Timothy 1:12–17**, and then **2 Corinthians 11:24–33**.

What characterized Saul/Paul's past? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the highlights and realities of Paul's story after his conversion? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Philippians 3:13b–14; 17–21**.

What was Paul's confident hope for the future? \_\_\_\_\_

## Faith Talk

How does Paul's story connect with His Story? \_\_\_\_\_

## If Time Permits

Read **Acts 9:1–19** for more about Saul's conversion. Scan this chapter and those following for highlights of Paul's ministry and missionary trips.

## My Story

Read **Ephesians 2:1–3, 11–12**. What characteristics are parts of our past?

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What good news do we hear about our present in **Ephesians 2:4–10, 13** and also in the following passages?

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**Isaiah 44:21–22** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 3:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter 2:9–10** \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Malachi 3:16–18** and **Revelation 21:22–27**. What is our hope for the future in these passages? \_\_\_\_\_

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Discuss the following song verse in light of the future in Christ Jesus:

*Some days seem long, though life is brief,  
and death is waiting like a thief.*

*When vision fades and dreams go dry,  
we will on Unseen things rely.*

*Our stories take up but a page,  
but Yours goes on from age to age.*

*I AM forever WHO I AM, Above you,  
beneath you, around you and within you.*

*Be still and know that I AM God.*

*Text: Richard W. Wiegmann. Used by permission.*

Read **Revelation 1:4b–8**. What assurance does this Scripture give to us?

## Faith Talk

How is your story connected to His Story? Share with a partner or in a small group.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) celebrates 70 years of God's grace this year 2012. God has blessed the work of dedicated women through the years as their mites have been used to support mission grants across the nation and throughout the world. The women of the LWML are truly women of the Word, who take to heart Jesus'

command in **Matthew 28:19a** to go ... and make disciples of all nations. Throughout 70 years, the Holy Spirit has empowered dedicated women to accomplish faithful acts of service done to the glory of His name, and to boldly proclaim the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. May God bless the LWML women as they look toward the future, confident of His continuing grace in years to come.

## If Time Permits

Who has been an LWML mentor for you? What is your LWML story? How is it connected to His Story? Share with a partner or in a small group.

## Faith Walk

1. Write down your faith story in three sentences.
2. With the help of the Holy Spirit, share your faith story and how it connects to His Story.
3. Thank Jesus for giving you salvation, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life.
4. Read more about the LWML: *Women in League with the Lord* by Marlys Taege (#20910) or *God Gave the Increase* by Marlys Taege Moberg, Lauren Beale, and Janice Kerper Brauer (#14986). Available from the LWML Catalog or online at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

## Closing

Read **Psalm 100** together:

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness!*

*Come into his presence with singing!  
Know that the LORD, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people,  
and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!*

*Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.  
Amen! (ESV)*

## Second Article of The Apostles' Creed

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

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