



Come and See, Go and Tell

BY SHARI MILLER

A new literary genre called the six-word memoir has arisen in the last several years. Folklore says Ernest Hemingway was once in a restaurant and was challenged to write a story — complete with plot, character, and conflict — in only six words. The legend goes on to say he penned this story: “For sale: baby shoes, never worn,” but no one knows if this one-sentence story actually comes from Hemingway. Discuss with your partner or the small group what this six-word story might tell.

The idea of a six-word memoir is intriguing. Spend a few minutes right now to write a six-word memoir about your life. If you are comfortable, share with your partner or the small group.

As we come and study God’s Word, we see that our spiritual eyes should always be focused on our Savior — the Word made flesh — Who has brought light into the darkness of our sin. How drastically that has changed things for each of us who believe in Jesus and His saving work on the cross! Our Spirit-led vision then turns outward as we focus our eyes on the mission of spreading the Gospel message to those who have not heard.

Opening Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, thank You for Your creation we see all around us. You are our mighty and awesome God. We know we once lived in the darkness of our sins, but, in mercy, You sent Your only Son, the Light of the World, to live a perfect life, suffer, and die for our sins. Because He rose from the dead, we, too, will rise to eternal life and see the glories of heaven. Thank You for the gift of Your Spirit. Our Comforter gives us faith to believe and keeps us focusing on You. Through Your Spirit, please make us bold to witness, telling others of Your saving Gospel, and to invite them to “Come, see, what God has done.” In Your name we pray, Amen.

Come and See

Read **Genesis 3:1-7, 15**. What were the sins of Adam and Eve? _____

When did God first tell of His salvation plan in Jesus? _____

Why did we need a Savior? _____

Paul elaborates in **Ephesians 5:6-14** (see also **John 1:1-4, 9** and **Philippians 2:5-11**) about our dark world of sin, inherited from Adam and Eve. Who shines Light into our darkened world? _____

How? _____

What does that mean for all Spirit-filled believers? _____

(See also **Daniel 12:3, Matthew 5:14-16, and Philippians 2:15.**)

Paul writes even more to his congregation in Ephesus. Read **Ephesians 1:13-14**. In addition, read **Romans 1:16, Romans 6:4, and Mark 14:22-24**. What tools does the Spirit use when working faith in us? _____

Why should we stay focused daily on God’s powerful Word and participate regularly in the Sacraments? _____

Paul continues writing in **Ephesians 1:15-19**. For what is Paul thankful? _____

What action does he take in response? _____

What are his prayer requests for the Ephesians (and us) in verses 17-19? _____

In **Ephesians 1:18**, Paul focuses our vision and encourages us *to have the eyes of our hearts enlightened*. When does the Holy Spirit enlighten the spiritual eyes of our heart?

(See **1 Peter 2:9-10** and **Titus 3:4-7**.)

Read about Paul's own enlightenment in **Acts 26:12-18** and **9:18-19**. Discuss.

In **2 Peter 1:16-21**, Peter says that ... *we were eyewitnesses of his majesty*. Read this passage, and **John 1:14** and **1 John 1:1-4**. Share what the disciples saw and how we know that this is sure (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). _____

Paul continues writing to the church in Ephesus in **Ephesians 1:19-23**. He speaks of the glorious inheritance that they have as believers in Jesus Christ. What is that inheritance (see also **1 Peter 1:3-4**)? _____

Go and Tell

Faith Talk: Think of these six words: "*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*" How could you use these words to share the hope we have in Christ, the *glorious inheritance*? Share with a partner or your small group. _____

Philip and Nathanael were friends. Read **John 1:43-46**. What first happened to Philip and then how does he immediately respond? _____

How do Peter and John respond when asked not to preach about Jesus in **Acts 4:18-20**? _____

Faith Talk: Identify someone you know who might need to hear the Gospel message of salvation. Spirit-emboldened, how would you express that message of God's love for us in Christ Jesus to that person? Be specific.

Faith Talk: Words are interesting. A group of six words can even tell the Gospel message — a six-word **witness** memoir. Consider these: "God is our Refuge and Strength,"

"Jesus came to save all sinners," "God so loved the world that ...," "Died on Friday; rose on Sunday," "And I will be your God," "With God all things are possible," "I was lost; now I'm found," "This day you'll be in paradise," "He's not here; He is risen," "Jesus is my Lord and God," "Jesus said, 'Peace be with you,'" or "Come and see; go and tell." Share with a partner or the small group which of the above six-word phrases could enable you to witness to your faith. How might that happen?

Faith Walk

1. Praise the Lord for the gift of life and eternal life in Jesus.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you focused on the Word and to give you the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to those still living in the darkness of sin.
3. Compose your own six-word witness memoir to help you in sharing the Good News about Jesus.
4. Memorize Revelation 1:4-8, 20.
5. Pray that God's will be done in your life and in the lives of those around you.

Closing Litany (based on Revelation 1:4-8, 20 and Psalms 34:1, 3, 5, 8):

Leader: *Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Response: **To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Leader: *Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!*

Response: **Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.**

Leader: *Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.*

Response: **"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."**

All: **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

Shari Miller, wife of Rev. Larry, is a freelance author and musician living in Helena, Montana, and is the News Editor for the *LWQ*. Her six-word memoir: "Child of God. Wife. Mother. Friend."