



"If I asked you to tell me your story, what would you say? God is the author of your life story. God is engaged in an ongoing creative work in your life. You are a story—a well-written, intentional story that is authored by the greatest Writer of all time, and even before time and after time. You are a living story that is meant to reveal and create glory. What makes your life a glorious bestseller is that the plot reveals not a mere moral or lesson but the very person and being of God." - Dan Allender, PhD, in *TO BE TOLD – Know Your Story – Share your Future*

## TELL US YOUR STORY

### STORY BUFFET – Living in Community

**Summary:** A Man embraces the feast of storytelling as the pathway to living life as God designed.

**Bible Verses:** Galatians 5:13-17; Genesis 16:1-13; Hebrews 12:5,6

**Video Clips:** YouTube – "Big Fish (6/8) Movie CLIP - Always Been a Fool (2003) HD," "Big Fish (7/8) Movie CLIP - Field of Daffodils (2003) HD," and "Big Fish (8/8) Movie CLIP - The Story of My Life (2003) HD"

**Music:** "Ramblin' Man" by The Allman Brothers Band

**Resources:** *TO BE TOLD – Know Your Story, Shape Your Future* by Dan Allender and *THE STORIES WE TELL – How TV and Movies Long For and Echo the Truth* by Mike Cosper

March 10, 2016

### STORY BUFFET – ALL YOU CAN EAT!

- The key to your Story Buffet is allowing your life to be confronted by the same questions that the angel of God offered Hagar, Sarah's maid (Genesis 16:3-13).
- Three Questions of a Good Story Buffet:
  - Where \_\_\_\_\_? (The Past)
  - Where \_\_\_\_\_? (The Present)
  - Where \_\_\_\_\_? (The Future)
- When you address these 3 Questions you begin to see the \_\_\_\_\_, name the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the impossible.

### STORY BUFFET – Where Have You Been?

- God \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 12:5-6). Tell about a time when God used one of your children to show you something about yourself?
- \_\_\_\_\_ = the Biblical word as the description of man and means "the remembering one." The concept of \_\_\_\_\_ teaches the recollection and remembrance.
  - Joshua 4:1-7 > God directed Joshua to build an altar of 12 stones to remember His goodness, provision, and rescue.
  - II Samuel 7 > David experienced the death of a vision when God told him that another King would build the temple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the themes and burdens of your life that has resulted in woundedness and brokenness. When you tell those stories in community, others will ask questions and offer feedback that help you recover your untold story.

### STORY BUFFET – Where are you NOW?

- As you feast on a Story Buffet by remembering \_\_\_\_\_, your present begins to take on meaning, shape, and purpose.
- Your brokenness and redeemed story will emerge as you \_\_\_\_\_. God will offer you direction as you find your voice and use it to speak.
- When you gather in your community and tell your stories, you will see that God has written \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.

### STORY BUFFET – Where are you Going?

- As you \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate stories, you read the past, you name the present, and you dream the future.
- As you feast on Story Buffet, you offer one another the \_\_\_\_\_ that gives you courage for the journey.
- As you tell your story over and over, you \_\_\_\_\_ your past, you \_\_\_\_\_ your present, and you \_\_\_\_\_ your future.
- As you walk the journey of life by telling your story, you will understand the great, glorious, and communal redemptive \_\_\_\_\_. Quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

### Tell Us Your Story: Guideline #5: Men's Coaching invites you to look for a tangible memorial, a symbol of the weekend to take home with you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ = Genesis 1:27 tells us explicitly the God created man and woman "in His image." In this passage, the word *man* is translated from the Hebrew word *zakar*, which means "the remembering one." Man is described as the one who remembers. Why? There are two issues: there is \_\_\_\_\_ that is important to remember and we have a \_\_\_\_\_ to remember.
- \_\_\_\_\_ = When a man searches for something other than God to give him satisfaction and fulfillment, he fails to remember what is true. Before Jesus left the disciples, he called them together for the Passover meal. To these men Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." Jesus knew they needed a symbol to help them remember all that he had done for them and what he had taught them. Refusal to remember will lead to the pursuit of pleasure and satisfaction in false self, false gods. The call to remember will lead to your life being anchored in truth, in the true God.

### ACTION: Journal This!

- Where have you been? (The Past)
- Where are you NOW? (The Present)
- Where are you going? (The Future)

## Bible Verses

### Galatians 5:13-18

<sup>13-15</sup> It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

<sup>16-18</sup> My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?

### Genesis 16:1-13

<sup>1-2</sup> Sarai, Abram's wife, hadn't yet produced a child. She had an Egyptian maid named Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "GOD has not seen fit to let me have a child. Sleep with my maid. Maybe I can get a family from her." Abram agreed to do what Sarai said.

<sup>3-4</sup> So Sarai, Abram's wife, took her Egyptian maid Hagar and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. Abram had been living ten years in Canaan when this took place. He slept with Hagar and she got pregnant. When Hagar learned she was pregnant, she looked down on her mistress.

<sup>5</sup> Sarai told Abram, "It's all your fault that I'm suffering this abuse. I put my maid in bed with you and the minute she knows she's pregnant, she treats me like I'm nothing. May GOD decide which of us is right."

<sup>6</sup> "You decide," said Abram. "Your maid is your business." Sarai was abusive to Hagar and Hagar ran away.

<sup>7-8</sup> An angel of GOD found her beside a spring in the desert; it was the spring on the road to Shur. He said, "Hagar, maid of Sarai, what are you doing here?" She said, "I'm running away from Sarai my mistress."

<sup>9-12</sup> The angel of GOD said, "Go back to your mistress. Put up with her abuse." He continued, "I'm going to give you a big family, children past counting. From this pregnancy, you'll get a son: Name him Ishmael; for GOD heard you, GOD answered you. He'll be a bucking bronco of a man, a real fighter, fighting and being fought, always stirring up trouble, always at odds with his family."

<sup>13</sup> She answered GOD by name, praying to the God who spoke to her, "You're the God who sees me! "Yes! He saw me; and then I saw him!"

### Hebrews 12:4-11

<sup>4-11</sup> In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don't feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as *his* children?

My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either. It's the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's *training*, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly *live*? While we were children, our parents did what *seemed* best to them. But God is doing what *is* best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

## RAMBLIN' MAN

Written by Dickey Betts and performed by The Allman Brothers Band

Lord, I was born a ramblin' man,  
Tryin' to make a livin' and doin' the best I can.  
And when it's time for leavin',  
I hope you'll understand,  
That I was born a ramblin' man.

My father was a gambler down in Georgia,  
And he wound up on the wrong end of a gun.  
And I was born in the back seat of a Greyhound bus  
Rollin' down highway 41.

Lord, I was born a ramblin' man,  
Tryin' to make a livin' and doin' the best I can.  
And when it's time for leavin',  
I hope you'll understand,  
That I was born a ramblin' man.

I'm on my way to New Orleans this mornin',  
Leaving out of Nashville, Tennessee,  
They're always having a good time down on the bayou, Lord  
Them Delta women think the world of me.

Lord, I was born a ramblin' man,  
Tryin' to make a livin' and doin' the best I can.  
And when it's time for leavin',  
I hope you'll understand,  
That I was born a ramblin' man.

[Repeat and Fade]

Lord, I was born a ramblin' man...

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**TELL US YOUR STORY**

# TELL US YOUR STORY!

If I asked you to tell me your story, what would you say? God is the author of your life story.

God is engaged in an ongoing creative work in your life. You are a story—a well-written, intentional story that is authored by the greatest Writer of all time, and even before time and after time. You are a living story that is meant to reveal and create glory. What makes your life a glorious bestseller is that the plot reveals not a mere moral or lesson but the very person and being of God.

- Dan Allender, PhD in *TO BE TOLD – Know Your Story – Share your Future.*

What's your story?

## STORY BUFFET – LIVING IN COMMUNITY!

### Galatians 5:13-17

# STORY BUFFET – ALL YOU CAN EAT!

1. The key to your Story Buffet is allowing your life to be confronted by the same questions that the angel of God offered Hagar, Sarah's maid (Genesis 16:3-13).
2. Three Questions of a Good Story Buffet:
  1. Where have you been? (The Past)
  2. Where are you NOW? (The Present)
  3. Where are you going? (The Future)
3. When you address these 3 Questions you begin to see the unseen, name the unnamed, and dream the impossible.

# STORY BUFFET – Where Have You Been?

1. God disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:5-6). Tell about a time when God used one of your children to show you something about yourself?
2. Zakar = the Biblical word as the description of man and means “the remembering one.” The concept of Zakar teaches the recollection and remembrance.
  1. Joshua 4:1-7 > God directed Joshua to build an altar of 12 stones to remember His goodness, provision, and rescue.
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3. Remember the themes and burdens of your life that has resulted in woundedness and brokenness. When you tell those stories in community, others will ask questions and offer feedback, that help you recover your untold story.

# STORY BUFFET – Where are you NOW?

1. As you feast on a Story Buffet by remembering **past stories**, your present begins to take on meaning, shape, and purpose.
2. Your brokenness and redeemed story will emerge as you **remember your past**. God will offer you direction as you find your voice and use it to speak.
3. When you gather in your community and tell your stories, you will see that God has written **His redemptive path** in your life.

# STORY BUFFET – Where are you Going?

1. As you gather in community to celebrate stories, you read the past, you name the present, and you dream the future.
2. As you feast on Story Buffet, you offer one another the love that gives you courage for the journey.
3. As you tell your story over and over, you revisit your past, you reclaim your present, and you rewrite your future.
4. As you walk the journey of life by telling your story, you will understand the great, glorious, and communal redemptive story of God. Quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



## **Tell Us Your Story: Guideline #5:** Men's Coaching invites you to look for a tangible memorial, a symbol of the weekend to take home with you.

1. **CREATED TO REMEMBER** = Genesis 1:27 tells us explicitly the God created man and woman "in His image." In this passage, the word *man* is translated from the Hebrew word *zakar*, which means "the remembering one." Man is described as the one who remembers. Why? There are two issues: there is **something** that is important to remember and we have a **reason** to remember.
2. **THE CALL TO REMEMBER** = When a man searches for something other than God to give him satisfaction and fulfillment, he fails to remember what is true. Before Jesus left the disciples, he called them together for the Passover meal. To these men Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." Jesus knew they needed a symbol to help them remember all that he had done for them and what he had taught them. Refusal to remember will lead to the pursuit of pleasure and satisfaction in false self, false gods. The call to remember will lead to your life being anchored in truth, in the true God.

# **ACTION: Journal This!**

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2. Where are you NOW? (The Present)
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What's your story?