



"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

### BROKEN IMAGE-BEARERS TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF LIFE!

**Summary:** A Man embraces his story as a reflection of the Gospel.

**Bible Verses:** Isaiah 41:9-16; Isaiah 42:13-17; Isaiah 43:10-13; Ezekiel 25:15-17; Genesis 6:5; I Samuel 8:11-20

**Video Clip:** YouTube – "True Grit - Ending Scene (HD 1080p)"

**Music:** "Leaning on the Everlasting Arm"/'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus' Medley"

**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

April 21, 2016

### THE ACHE OF YOUR HEART > A HAPPY ENDING!

1. Life is \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing works out as it seems. The things you believed would satisfy you have left you feeling empty and sad. You are aware of the impact of the Fall. In the presence of falseness and brokenness, in the face of a world that isn't the way you know it should be, how do you respond? What hope do you have?
2. The Hope of \_\_\_\_\_ = You have been wronged! Vengeance seems to offer some sort of satisfaction (Ezekiel 25:15-17). The Bible acknowledges this kind of darkness in mankind for redemption through violence (Genesis 6:5).
3. The Hope of \_\_\_\_\_ = Whenever you see crime and wrongdoing, you want someone to pay. You want to see the cost accounted for, and you want to know the evil is vanquished from the earth.
4. The Hope of the \_\_\_\_\_ = You want to see the spiritual healing in a life changed, a world made better, and an evil conquered. You want to feel complete, where things are tied up in a bow. You long for resolution.

### LONGING FOR A HERO > HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

1. Where is the \_\_\_\_\_? The part of you looking for a hero remains, ready to be tapped by the next politician, preacher, or action star who appears ready to take on the evils of the world (I Samuel 8:11-20). We long for a king—a leader that could unite us and bring peace.
2. Joseph Campbell, building on the work of psychologist, Carl Jung, described this longing in a 12-stage framework called "The Hero's Journey." For Jung and Campbell, this journey is as much about self-discovery and self-actualization as it is about the heroes we seek.
3. The Journey of Jesus is repeated again and again in the stories we tell:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ > The Incarnation. Jesus was called away from the throne room and into the humbling form of a child.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ > The Temptation of Jesus. Jesus's journey's ultimate goal was the cross, but on the way, he faced challenges in order for him to complete his mission.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ > The Crucifixion. At the cross, Jesus faced his greatest test, enduring pain, shame, and the ultimate darkness of God's Wrath.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ > The Resurrection. At the resurrection, Jesus emerged victorious from his greatest test.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ > The Ascension. Jesus returned to the Father, now able to carry out a greater ministry.

### THE HUNGER FOR GLORY & THE DOUGHNUTS WE EAT!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ > If you think fame, fortune, followers, likes, comments, retweets, and favorites are going to satisfy your soul, you are absolutely wrong.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ > You live with a hopeful eye toward a day when things will return to the way they were meant to be. And part of that destiny is restored glory.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ > You were once the crown of creation, bearing God's image, carriers of a tremendous glory restored, but until then, you feel what you've lost and what you long for. You feel the dull ache of faded glory. Quote by C.S. Lewis.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ > It's not that the hunger for glory or even fame is wrong, it's that you are too easily satisfied.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ > The Gospel tells you that life, indeed, is heading somewhere. There's an end to the story, and it's an end that by God's grace can be an experience of the greatest good and the most satisfying glorification that you'll ever know.

**Tell Us Your Story: Guideline #10 > Men's Coaching is a spiritual journey offered through a Christian framework, but there are no demands to "do" or "be" anything that you are uncomfortable with.**

1. All are Welcome! Men's Coaching is offered to all—any man, regardless of his knowledge, background, or statue, through a Christian framework. We will offer this Christian framework with respect and passion. No man is required to be a certain level or believe anything.
2. We are excited to offer what we have seen, what we have experienced, and what has helped us. However, each man is offered the weekend with no demands. You can take what you like and leave whatever you choose.

### ACTION: Journal This!

1. How have you benefited from failure?
2. What frustrations seem to never leave you?
3. How would your life be different if you could overcome failure and frustration?

## Bible Verses

### Isaiah 41:8-16

<sup>8-10</sup> "But you, Israel, are my servant. You're Jacob, my first choice, descendants of my good friend Abraham. I pulled you in from all over the world, called you in from every dark corner of the earth, telling you, 'You're my servant, serving on my side. I've picked you. I haven't dropped you.' Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you."

<sup>11-13</sup> "Count on it: Everyone who had it in for you will end up out in the cold—real losers. Those who worked against you will end up empty-handed—nothing to show for their lives. When you go out looking for your old adversaries you won't find them—not a trace of your old enemies, not even a memory. That's right. Because I, your GOD, have a firm grip on you and I'm not letting go. I'm telling you, 'Don't panic. I'm right here to help you.'"

<sup>14-16</sup> "Do you feel like a lowly worm, Jacob? Don't be afraid. Feel like a fragile insect, Israel? I'll help you. I, GOD, want to reassure you. The God who buys you back, The Holy of Israel. I'm transforming you from worm to harrow, from insect to iron. As a sharp-toothed harrow you'll smooth out the mountains, turn those tough old hills into loamy soil. You'll open the rough ground to the weather, to the blasts of sun and wind and rain. But you'll be confident and exuberant, expansive in The Holy of Israel!"

### Isaiah 42:10-17

<sup>10-16</sup> Sing to GOD a brand-new song, sing his praises all over the world! Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause, with all the far-flung islands joining in. Let the desert and its camps raise a tune, calling the Kedar nomads to join in. Let the villagers in Sela round up a choir and perform from the tops of the mountains. Make GOD's glory resound; echo his praises from coast to coast. GOD steps out like he means business. You can see he's primed for action. He shouts, announcing his arrival; he takes charge and his enemies fall into line: "I've been quiet long enough. I've held back, biting my tongue. But now I'm letting loose, letting go, like a woman who's having a baby—stripping the hills bare, withering the wildflowers, drying up the rivers, turning lakes into mudflats. But I'll take the hand of those who don't know the way, who can't see where they're going. I'll be a personal guide to them, directing them through unknown country. I'll be right there to show them what roads to take, make sure they don't fall into the ditch. These are the things I'll be doing for them—sticking with them, not leaving them for a minute."

<sup>17</sup> But those who invested in the no-gods are bankrupt—dead broke.

### Isaiah 43:8-13

<sup>8-13</sup> Get the blind and deaf out here and ready—the blind (though there's nothing wrong with their eyes) and the deaf (though there's nothing wrong with their ears). Then get the other nations out here and ready. Let's see what they have to say about this, how they account for what's

happened. Let them present their expert witnesses and make their case; let them try to convince us what they say is true. "But *you* are my witnesses." GOD's Decree. "You're my handpicked servant so that you'll come to know and trust me, understand both *that* I am and *who* I am. Previous to me there was no such thing as a god, nor will there be after me. I, yes I, am GOD. I'm the only Savior there is. I spoke, I saved, I told you what existed long before these upstart gods appeared on the scene. And you know it, you're my witnesses, you're the evidence." GOD's Decree. "Yes, I am God. I've always been God and I always will be God. No one can take anything from me. I make; who can unmake it?"

### Ezekiel 25:15-17

<sup>15-17</sup> "GOD, the Master, says: Because the Philistines were so spitefully vengeful—all those centuries of stored-up malice!—and did their best to destroy Judah, therefore I, GOD, the Master, will oppose the Philistines and cut down the Cretans and anybody else left along the seacoast. Huge acts of vengeance, massive punishments! When I bring vengeance, they'll realize that I am GOD."

### Genesis 6:5-7

<sup>5-7</sup> GOD saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil—evil, evil, evil from morning to night. GOD was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart. GOD said, "I'll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds—the works. I'm sorry I made them."

### I Samuel 8:11-20

<sup>10-18</sup> So Samuel told them, delivered GOD's warning to the people who were asking him to give them a king. He said, "This is the way the kind of king you're talking about operates. He'll take your sons and make soldiers of them—chariotry, cavalry, infantry, regimented in battalions and squadrons. He'll put some to forced labor on his farms, plowing and harvesting, and others to making either weapons of war or chariots in which he can ride in luxury. He'll put your daughters to work as beauticians and waitresses and cooks. He'll conscript your best fields, vineyards, and orchards and hand them over to his special friends. He'll tax your harvests and vintage to support his extensive bureaucracy. Your prize workers and best animals he'll take for his own use. He'll lay a tax on your flocks and you'll end up no better than slaves. The day will come when you will cry in desperation because of this king you so much want for yourselves. But don't expect GOD to answer."

<sup>19-20</sup> But the people wouldn't listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We will have a king to rule us! Then we'll be just like all the other nations. Our king will rule us and lead us and fight our battles."

## LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARM / 'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS MEDLEY

What a fellowship, What a joy divine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms  
What a blessedness, what a peace that's mine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

### CHORUS:

Lord I'm leaning, leaning  
Safe and secure from all alarms  
Leaning, leaning  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Oh how sweet to walk in the pilgrim way  
Leaning on the everlasting arms  
Oh how bright the path grows from day to day  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

### CHORUS

What have I to dread  
What have I to fear

Leaning on the everlasting arms  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

### CHORUS

Jesus, Jesus how I trust you  
How I proved you o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus precious Jesus  
Oh for Grace to trust Him more

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to take Him at His word  
Just to rest upon his promise  
Just to know, thus saith the Lord

Jesus, Jesus how I trust Him  
How I proved Him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus precious Jesus  
Oh for grace to trust Him more

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**BROKEN IMAGE-BEARERS TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF LIFE!**

**Isaiah 41:9-16 > God's View of You!**

**Isaiah 42:13-17 > God Fights for You!**

**Isaiah 43:10-13 > God Rescues!**

# THE ACHE OF YOUR HEART > A HAPPY ENDING!

1. Life is **Hard**. Nothing works out as it seems. The things you believed would satisfy you have left you feeling empty and sad. You are aware of the impact of the Fall. In the presence of falseness and brokenness, in the face of a world that isn't the way you know it should be, how do you respond? What hope do you have?
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3. The Hope of **Judgment** = Whenever you see crime and wrongdoing, you want someone to pay. You want to see the cost accounted for, and you want to know the evil is vanquished from the earth.
4. The Hope of the **Divine** = You want to see the spiritual healing in a life changed, a world made better, and an evil conquered. You want to feel complete, where things are tied up in a bow. You long for resolution.

# LONGING FOR A HERO > HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

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  3. **Into the Darkness** > The Crucifixion. At the cross, Jesus faced his greatest test, enduring pain, shame, and the ultimate darkness of God’s Wrath.
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  5. **Home Again** > The Ascension. Jesus returned to the Father, now able to carry out a greater ministry.

# THE HUNGER FOR GLORY & THE DOUGHNUTS WE EAT!

1. **Hunger** > If you think fame, fortune, followers, likes, comments, retweets, and favorites are going to satisfy your soul, you are absolutely wrong.
2. **Hope** > You live with a hopeful eye toward a day when things will return to the way they were meant to be. And part of that destiny is restored glory.
3. **Remember** > You were once the crown of creation, bearing God's image, carriers of a tremendous glory restored, but until then, you feel what you've lost and what you long for. You feel the dull ache of faded glory. Quote by C.S. Lewis.
4. **Doughnuts** > It's not that the hunger for glory or even fame is wrong, it's that you are too easily satisfied.
5. **Resolution** > The Gospel tells you that life, indeed, is heading somewhere. There's an end to the story, and it's an end that by God's grace can be an experience of the greatest good and the most satisfying glorification that you'll ever know.

# C.S. Lewis in The Weight of Glory

*“Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition where infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”*



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