



My Story

STUDY GUIDE

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Have you realized God is writing a unique story with you? We live in relationship with the Divine Playwright who works with us to move us from suffering and struggles, through pain and isolation, and toward restoration and hope. Each movement is another chapter where people can see our relationship of “yes/and” with God who does not dictate yet allows us a chance to write a story of restoration others can witness.

Throughout this study, we'll use the book of Job as our foundational story, to see how God has moved us from, through, and to new chapters in our own life stories.

Register to participate weekly in the Sunday Night Bible Study sessions at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom at **st.lukes.org/adults**. Recorded sessions are available for viewing and listening Mondays at **st.lukes.org/podcast**.

WEEK 1 | September 26 – October 3

Once upon a time...you have a story

Key Texts: Job 1

Lecture Notes:

[illegible]

For Discussion in Life Together Groups and Personal Reflection

- In chapter 3, Job curses the day he was born and retells his life as a tragedy. When have you attributed meaning to your past (good or bad) because of how you saw your current situation?

• God's people are called to be story-tellers. What elements do you tend to include when telling your story? Why do you think you are drawn to those?

• Job's story resembles the story of Jesus in many ways: both are upright and blameless, both tempted by Satan, both afflicted although innocent, etc. How does this comparison help you understand Job?

Podcast Notes:

Writing Prompt:

Write briefly about a story you often tell others about yourself. Maybe about the time you caught a big fish, or hiked up a mountain, or rescued a baby bird. It can be a small story. It need not be heroic or traumatic. What do you think this story communicates about who you are and what is important to you? (Focus on qualities such as adventurous, timid, clever, funny, committed to family, and so forth) It might be a story from childhood or last week.

MY STORIES

What are your stories? What stories do you have? What are the perspectives that shape your story? What would the cover of your story book be? What is your self-titled album cover?

Lecture Notes:

For Discussion in Life Together Groups and Personal Reflection

- What do Job’s friends do that is helpful? What is NOT helpful?

- When have you refused to believe something other people said about God? Said about you?

- Does Job’s wife deserve the criticism she is often given by readers? Why or why not?

- Considering the parallels between the story of Jesus and the story of Job, what are some of the voices Jesus had to “move from?”

Podcast Notes:

Writing Prompt:

Write about a story your family tells/told about you. What does this story communicate about you? Is this a story you own? Are you comfortable with this story, or do you find it limiting? Can you reinterpret this story?

MY STORIES

Who/what/where shaped those things you used to be?

Lecture Notes:

For Discussion in Life Together Groups and Personal Reflection

- Job repeatedly states that he must speak his painful truth to God. Why do you think this is important?

- Throughout the Bible, worship of God is to be done with one’s “whole heart.” When we refuse to voice our complaints or laments, how does that affect our ability to worship God fully?

- Consider Jesus’ own words of complaint on the cross. How does his accusation of God abandoning him demonstrate Jesus’ faithfulness?

Podcast Notes:

Writing Prompts:

Write a short letter to God. Begin with the words “Dear God...” Write down whatever comes to you, even if it is “Dear God, I don’t know what to say.” Even if you feel uncertain, choose to stay in that place for a while, and await what comes next.

After you finish writing, reflect on what you have written. Have you written about a part of your life story that has given you joy, where you learned something about yourself, or something else? Have you written about or a part of your life story that still needs healing?

MY STORIES

I changed because...What things/situations/difficulties/struggles have caused you to change?

Lecture Notes:

For Discussion in Life Together Groups and Personal Reflection

- How would you describe the exchange between God and Job (chapters 31 and 38-42)? Is anything ultimately resolved?

- When God finally answers Job, God's defense rests on God's role as Creator. How might this image of God help Job to come to terms with his circumstances?

- God tells Job's friends that Job is actually the one who spoke rightly about God (42:7-8). What do you think this means? What did Job say that was right?

Podcast Notes:

Writing Prompt:

Imagine you’ve been asked to write your memoir. Perhaps a friend or publisher has said “You have a fascinating life,” or “You sure have stories to tell.” Take a few moments to come up with a catchy title. Remember, a memoir need not cover your entire life. You may wish to focus on an important turning point in your life, chosen or not, that changed the direction of your life. Try to sketch out a chapter title or two, which may cover a period of your life or a single incident. Where do you begin? What part of your story do you feel compelled to write right now? Begin writing whatever comes to mind and see where that takes you.

MY STORIES

Now I am...What is your next chapter? Where is God leading you? What will your life story continue to share? Who tells your story? Who needs to hear your story?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PRAYER CONCERNS



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