

# Sharing the Gift of Jesus B-L-E-S-S

Christmas Day!!!!!!!!!!!!

December 25, 2022

- 11/27 **B**egin with prayer
- 12/04 **L**isten to
- 12/11 **E**at with
- 12/18 **S**erve
- 12/25** **S**hare your story

TELLING YOUR STORY (write it out on one page)

1. My life before I met Jesus
2. How I met Jesus
3. My life after I met Jesus

What are some hesitations in sharing your story?

- I'm not **ready** ; there's still stuff I don't know
- I don't want to force my beliefs on anyone
- I get anxious thinking about it; I'm **uncomfortable**

THE SHEPHERDS' STORY (Luke 2:8-20)

1. **Our** life before **we** met Jesus (vs. 8)
  - We were in the fields. Most people avoided us.
  - We (shepherds) were low status people; **unhoused**
  - Not sure what God thought of us, if **anything**
2. How we met Jesus (vs. 9-14)
  - An angel (Gabriel?) then a heavenly army-choir of angels
  - **Discussed** with my friends, before doing anything
  - Decided to go and see for **ourselves**
3. Our life after we met Jesus (vs. 15-20)
  - Telling those most interested
  - Telling to **anyone** who wants to listen
  - Telling your story, glorifying and praising **God**

## *On Your Own* (better with others)

*Putting your story on paper is one of the best discipleship exercises that you can do. Use this simple outline and write a one page version. Here's an abbreviated version of my journey to faith in Jesus.*

### **PART ONE—My life before Jesus**

Growing up in a home where we went to church, I heard about Jesus from a young age. Jesus was a part of our family, but not yet for me.

### **PART TWO—How I met Jesus**

As a seven year old, I prayed and asked Jesus to be my Savior, and he agreed! Through junior high and high school, my faith was largely a social faith based around church life. During my last two years of college, I began to take personal responsibility to engage with Jesus in prayer, Bible study and reading Christian books. My faith grew.

### **PART THREE—My life since I met Jesus**

When I first met my wife, her commitment to love and serve Jesus strengthened mine. Together we've followed Jesus everywhere he has led us. Our lives have found purpose and direction in Him. It has not been easy, but it is rewarding. Personally, the hardest part for me is getting rid of my selfishness and my tendency to try to put a spin on my sin. Crazy huh? Especially, since forgiveness is free for the asking and there's nothing I can do to earn God's favor. I am constantly learning and relearning that life in Christ is the best!

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#### 1. *agree/disagree*

Some people are more eager to hear about my journey to Jesus than I am eager to share it with them.

#### 2. Of the three common hesitations to sharing your story, which one trips you up and keeps you from sharing?

#### 3. Similar to the shepherds, how can others in your small group encourage you as you seek to B.L.E.S.S. someone each week?