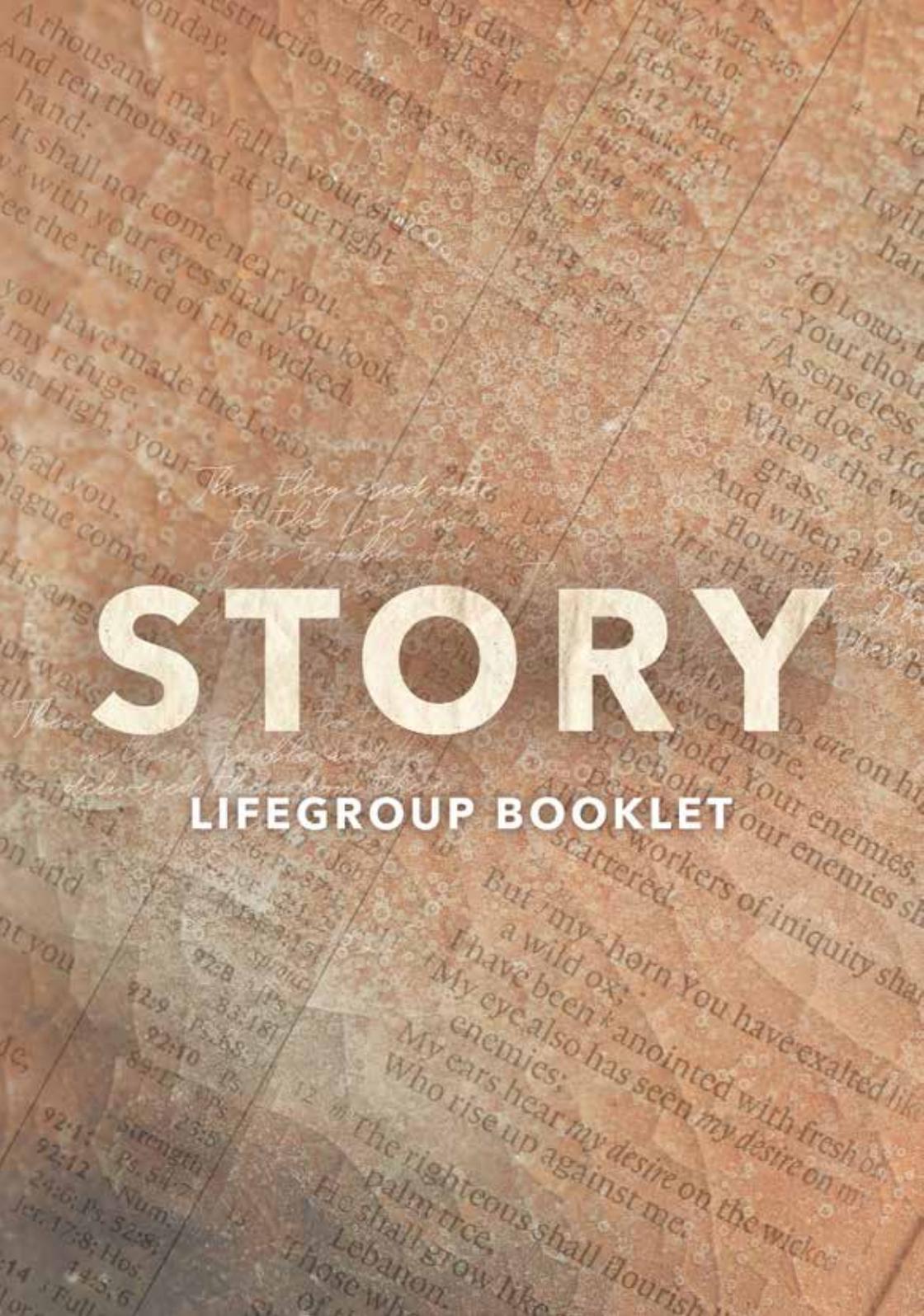


STORY

LIFEGROUP BOOKLET



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*I was lost
and empty
but now I
have been
found and
filled.*

*I was trapped
in darkness
but now I am
free to shine a
light.*

*I was broken
and hurting
but now I am
being healed
by the Word
one day at a
time.*

*I was
anxious and
overwhelmed
but now I am
at peace and
empowered.*

**"LET THE
REDEEMED
OF THE
LORD TELL
THEIR
STORY..."**

PSALM 107:2

STORY

The people of Israel had a story to tell of what God had done to redeem them when they were in distress. The Psalmist reminded them of the good things God had done and encouraged them to tell their story so that others would know God's unfailing love.

There were some who wandered aimlessly in the desert and their story was that God found them a home and filled their hungry hearts and bellies. Some were trapped in darkness and their story was that God set them free to shine a light on His goodness and grace. Some were broken and hurting and their story was one of being healed one day at a time by the word of God. Some were anxious and overwhelmed and their story was that God calmed their fears and gave them peace. God wanted His redeemed to tell their story so that others would know His unfailing love.

This series will be based in one song (Psalm 107) but we will unpack the stories being sung from other places in Scripture. These are old stories from an old song but God invites us all into His eternal story today through faith in His son, Jesus. Jesus came to earth to redeem all people (not just Israel) from the power and punishment of sin.

Jesus invites all of us to cry out to Him when we are in distress. He will deliver us from evil and put a new song in our heart. If you have faith in Christ, you have been redeemed and you have a story to tell. God wants you to tell your story so that others will know His unfailing love forever.

What is your story?

This template can help you shape your story:

I was (describe a struggle or challenge)

Then I cried out to the Lord (describe an encounter with God)

Now I am (describe your transformed life)

Before the end of the year I will share my story with...

GIVE THANKS

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalm 107:1

Each week we will begin life group with a time of worship and thanksgiving. We have prepared a playlist of worship songs to help you and your group praise God for His goodness. Choose a song or two from the list to play each week.

Access the playlist here: <http://tiny.cc/gatewaystory>

After a time of worship, spend some time in prayer praising God for the blessings in your life. There is space for you to list your blessings each week, ready to thank God together in life group.

I WAS LOST AND EMPTY BUT NOW I HAVE BEEN FOUND AND FILLED

GIVE THANKS

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalm 107:1

Play a song from the playlist provided to worship God and thank Him for His goodness.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

List some of the things you are thankful for. Pray a prayer of praise and thanks.

TELL YOUR STORY

“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...”

Ps 107:2

Using the list on page 5, take time to listen to each other’s story. Set a timer for 10 minutes so that everyone gets an opportunity to share.

Take time to gather around and pray for each person who shares their story. Listen to God for words of encouragement for them. Celebrate what God has been doing in their life.

*I was
lost
and
empty
but
now I
have
been
found
and
filled.*

OPEN GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 107:4-9

I was lost and empty...

1. In what ways do people get lost in the desert?
2. Have you experienced a time when you were wandering aimlessly and your life lacked purpose? Describe what it was like for you. What was going on in your life to make you feel that way?

Then I cried out to the Lord in my trouble...

3. The Israelites cried out to God when they were in trouble and He saved them. How has God transformed your life to give you purpose and meaning?
4. Describe God's call on your life in this season.

Now I am found and filled...

5. Read Matthew 4:1-4. What do we learn about a life of purpose from Jesus response? How can we adopt this in our own lives?

PRAY

If you feel like you are wandering aimlessly in the wilderness right now, God invites you to cry out to Him. He will deliver you from distress and fill your empty soul. Take time to share and pray with one another.

'OTHERS' CHALLENGE

What will you do this week to create an opportunity to share your story and invite one person to church before the end of the year?

I WAS TRAPPED IN DARKNESS BUT NOW I AM FREE TO SHINE A LIGHT

GIVE THANKS

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalm 107:1

*I was
trapped
in
darkness
but
now
I
am
free
to
shine
a
light.*

Spend some time worshiping God and giving thanks for his goodness. Use a song from the playlist provided.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

List some of the things you are thankful for. Pray a prayer of praise and thanks.

TELL YOUR STORY

“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...”

Ps 107:2

Using the list on page 5, take time to listen to each other’s story. Set a timer for 10 minutes so everyone gets an opportunity to share.

After each story, take time to gather around and pray for each person who shares. Listen to God for words of encouragement to pray.

OPEN GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 107:10-16

I was trapped in darkness...

1. What are some of the things that trap people in darkness?
2. Have you ever felt trapped in darkness? Do you know what life is like without God's love and protection? Describe what it was like for you. What was going on in your life to make you feel that way?

Then I cried out to the Lord in my trouble...

3. The Israelites cried out to God and He set them free to sing His praises. How has God set you free from the things that trapped you in darkness?

Now I am free to shine a light...

4. Read John 8:12. What is the key to walking in the light? How can we do this each day?

PRAY

If you feel like you are trapped in darkness today, God invites you to cry out to Him. He will deliver you from distress and shine a light of hope into your darkness. Take time to share and pray with one another.

'OTHERS' CHALLENGE

What will you do this week to create an opportunity to share your story and invite one person to church before the end of the year?

I WAS BROKEN AND HURTING BUT NOW I AM BEING HEALED

GIVE THANKS

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalm 107:1

Spend some time worshipping God and giving thanks for his goodness. Use a song from the playlist provided.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

List some of the things you are thankful for. Pray a prayer of praise and thanks.

TELL YOUR STORY

“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...”

Ps 107:2

Using the list on page 5, take time to listen to each other’s story. Set a timer for 10 minutes so everyone gets an opportunity to share.

After each story, take time to gather around and pray for each person who shares. Listen to God for words of encouragement to pray.

OPEN GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 107:17-22

I was broken and hurting...

1. In what ways do you see people broken and hurting because of turning their back on God's word? How have you experienced this in your own life and the lives of people you love?

Then I cried out to the Lord in my trouble...

2. The Israelites cried out to God and He sent out His word and healed them. The word they had rebelled against, and which led to condemnation, became the word of promise, comfort and restoration. What are some of the words of God that have led to healing in your life?

Now I am being healed by the Word one day at a time...

3. Read Jeremiah 33:1-11. What steps of obedience and faith did God require? What did God promise His people?
4. How can we take hold of this promise for ourselves?

PRAY

If you are broken and hurting on the inside, cry out to God and He will deliver you from distress and heal you one day at a time. Take time to share and pray with one another.

'OTHERS' CHALLENGE

What will you do this week to create an opportunity to share your story and invite one person to church before the end of the year?

I WAS ANXIOUS AND OVERWHELMED BUT NOW I AM AT PEACE AND EMPOWERED

GIVE THANKS

*I was
anxious*

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalm 107:1

and

Spend some time worshipping God and giving thanks for his goodness.

overwhelmed

Use a song from the playlist provided.

but

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

now

List some of the things you are thankful for. Pray a prayer of praise and thanks.

I

am at

peace

and

TELL YOUR STORY

empowered.

“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...”

Ps 107:2

Using the list on page 5, take time to listen to each other’s story. Set a timer for 10 minutes so everyone gets an opportunity to share.

After each story, take time to gather around and pray for each person who shares. Listen to God for words of encouragement to pray.

OPEN GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 107:23-32

I was anxious and overwhelmed...

1. What are the things that cause people to be anxious and overwhelmed?
2. Have you ever faced an overwhelming challenge you didn't think you could get through? Describe what it was like for you. What was going on in your life to make you feel that way?

Then I cried out to the Lord in my trouble...

3. How has a relationship with Jesus helped you overcome overwhelming challenges? What disciplines and tools help you grow in faith?

Now I am at peace and empowered...

4. Read Matthew 8:23-27. What do we learn about Jesus from this story? How can we grow in faith to overcome challenges?

PRAY

If you are feeling overwhelmed and afraid, you can cry out to God and He will deliver you from distress and calm your fears. Take time to share and pray with one another.

'OTHERS' CHALLENGE

What will you do this week to create an opportunity to share your story and invite one person to church before the end of the year?
