

**“Becoming a Storyteller on Mission”**  
**Engage the Story of God, Week #4**  
**Next Steps: With God, With Others, On Mission**

MISSION

**Notes:**

1. If we were to look at the Bible as a whole, we would see that God desires that all of the earth will be \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s\_\_\_\_\_.

(See Habakkuk 2:14; Isaiah 43:7; Ephesians 1:11-12)

2. What is the MISSION of His Church? (See Matthew 16:18; John 17: 20-21)
3. We all must be \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ by making \_\_\_\_\_. (See Matthew 28:18-19)

**Identity (Who I am) and Purpose (What I do)**

*If we are who God says we are, then we can do what God says to do.*

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_. (See Genesis 1:26)

“Out of all the creatures God made, only one creature, man, is said to be made ‘in the image of God.’ What does that mean? We may use the following definition: *The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.*”

-Wayne Grudem Bible Doctrine

It is not that we are \_\_\_\_\_ to God, but that we are \_\_\_\_\_.

*“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

Wayne Grudem, author of Bible Doctrine has a great section on the Doctrine of Man. He dedicates a significant portion to diving into what it means to bear the image of God. He makes the point that we can't narrow down all of the ways that we bear the image of God- since God is infinite, but some aspects of our likeness to God are moral aspects, spiritual aspects, mental aspects, and relational aspects.

Aspects of Image Bearing:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Aspects

We are \_\_\_\_\_ accountable before God for our \_\_\_\_\_. We have an \_\_\_\_\_ sense of and \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”*

Romans 1:32

For those that trust Jesus, their morality is being restored by the \_\_\_\_\_. He trains us to say no to \_\_\_\_\_ -or \_\_\_\_\_. (Titus 2:11-12)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Aspects

We are made with a \_\_\_\_\_ and also with a \_\_\_\_\_. And because we are body and spirit, this makes it so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ to God, who is \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”* Daniel 12:2

- \_\_\_\_\_ Aspects

People are given the ability to \_\_\_\_\_, think \_\_\_\_\_, develop \_\_\_\_\_.

When we have been RESCUED by Jesus, we are given access to the wisdom and reasoning of God (James 3:17).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Aspects

We represent God with our \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_; in our families, in our friendships, our marriages, and now, for those that have believed in Jesus, in the church.

God has put mankind over the rest of creation, to and to \_\_\_\_\_ for it. (Genesis 1:26).

Because we are made in the image of God, this means that out of all of creation, humanity has a **unique relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, with other \_\_\_\_\_, and with the rest of \_\_\_\_\_.**

The only one who has been a perfect image bearer since the Fall is \_\_\_\_\_.

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”* Colossians 1:15

*“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...”* Hebrews 1:3

To answer as a group or to type in the chat area:

*Remembering who Jesus is, and how he lived, how do we, as image bearers, display God’s glory to the world?*

2. We are \_\_\_\_\_.

*“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” Romans 8:14-17*

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” Ephesians 1:3-6*

- Jesus says that those who follow God’s are His family.

*“For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” Mark 3:35*

**Group Question**, type or shout out: *What does it look like for a child to honor their parents? What does this mean for our identity as God’s children?*

- Our full \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in God reveals who God is. It shows off that God is a good \_\_\_\_\_ . We are made to live full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in our Father. Jesus gives us a glimpse of what this can look like.

*Jesus is the perfect Son to His Father (see John 5:19). Looking at Matthew 11:25-30, what does Jesus do that we can do?*

*"So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise." John 5:19*

*"At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'" Matthew 11:25-30*

- Jesus is full of \_\_\_\_\_ for what the Father has done. V.25
- Jesus is quick to \_\_\_\_\_ the Father's and delight in it. V.26
- Jesus shows off \_\_\_\_\_ the Father is. V.27
- Jesus shows that we are made to with \_\_\_\_\_. When we rest in the and \_\_\_\_\_ God has given us life can be light. V.29-30

When God gifts us with the right to become children of God, He is also gifting us with being part of His purpose. God works in you and with you to fill the earth with His glory. It's incredible to be a child of God.

3. We are \_\_\_\_\_.

*What do you think this means?*

- A priest is someone who is a \_\_\_\_\_, a go between, for God and people.

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”* 1 Peter 2:9-10.

- Peter is telling us, the followers of God, that we are God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Martin Luther pointed out in his *Babylonian Captivity of the Church* that “all we who are Christians are priests,” and **no believer has greater access to the Creator than any other.**

- All of us who trust in Jesus alone for salvation have free access into His \_\_\_\_\_, and all of our lawful \_\_\_\_\_ are set apart for true God-honoring service.

*“You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”* 1 Peter 2:5

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is our ultimate and perfect High Priest.

As priests we pray for God to \_\_\_\_\_ those around us. As priests we also get to relate the \_\_\_\_\_ of those around us.

Group Question- shout out, or type in chat area:

*Jesus is the perfect High Priest (see Hebrews 10:10-14), how do we do what He does?*

4. We are \_\_\_\_\_.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

A witness is a person who \_\_\_\_\_ to what they have \_\_\_\_\_ or to what they have \_\_\_\_\_, or to what they \_\_\_\_\_.

His people are to be witnesses of His teachings, His life, His ways, His works, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension.

- We testify through our \_\_\_\_\_ and our what we have seen, heard and know.

“He [Jesus] bears witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony.” John 3:32

“...Jesus Christ [is] the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.”

Revelation 1:5

“[Jesus] is faithful in the sense that He is one on whose testimony there may be entire reliance, or who is entirely worthy to be believed.” - Barne’s  
Commentary

Group Question- shout out or type in chat area: *Jesus is the perfect Witness, what does a witness do to accomplish the MISSION of God?*

5. Our hope at Good Shepherd we would be faithful  
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People who \_\_\_\_\_ and pay \_\_\_\_\_ to what God is doing in and around us, and that we would join His MISSION of filling all of creation with His glory by being witnesses to His Story.

**Group Question**, shout out, or type in chat area: *What is the Story of God?*

## **Storytelling: Rescue**

In the space below, work through the following questions to help you tell the story of God's rescue in your life. This is also called a "salvation story."

- 1. Prior to God rescuing you, in what or who did you find your purpose and identity? Where did you see brokenness around you or in you?*
- 2. In what ways were you trying to rescue yourself and be the hero of your story?*
- 3. At what point in your story did you believe that Jesus rescued you from the wrath of God to eternal life with him (justified), who or what did God use, and how did that come about?*
- 4. Who does God say you are now?*



3. *What areas in your life do you find yourself repeating old attitudes, beliefs or behaviors? In other words, what areas in your life do you need restoration today?*

Remember, we all have areas that need the restoration of God, everyone still sins; and so, we need to trust Jesus' power and work instead of our own every day. Like we learned in week two and three, when the Holy Spirit brings sin to your mind your part in this process is to:

1. Agree with God that you have sinned.
2. Grieve your sin.
3. Confess your sin to Him.
4. Repent, and turn away from this sinful belief, attitude, or behavior.
5. Tell a trusted friend or mentor about this for prayer and accountability.
6. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with this part of your story. Share how God is restoring you and become a Witness.

Group time: Take some time to share your Rescue and Restoration stories in your group. Sharing these stories helps us throw off shame, it brings us into fellowship with one another, and it gives God glory by telling others what He has done for us. This is a time to celebrate God's Rescue and Restoration in our lives.

## **Storytelling: On Mission**

Being on MISSION is an everyday all-day lifestyle. Storytelling can happen anywhere at any time, but it takes intentionality.

**Group Question** - shout out or type in chat area:

*Where are the places we go and who are the people we see on a given day?*

- Every \_\_\_\_\_ and every \_\_\_\_\_ presents an opportunity to be on MISSION and to live out our identity and purpose in Christ.
- If we prayerfully \_\_\_\_\_, we will hear that people are always sharing their stories.

1. *Where do you go?*
2. *Who do you know that needs to hear about what God has done in your life?*

As you listen to other people, pray that the Holy Spirit would help you hear their stories. Think through these questions as you listen:

- *In what or who are they finding their Identity and Purpose?*
  - *Where is brokenness?*
  - *What or who are they looking to for Rescue?*
  - *How does the true Story of God bring hope and Restoration to this person's life?*
3. *While asking the Holy Spirit to help you, write out a prayer. Express your fears, doubts, and desire to become a better Witness to what He has done. Ask for His help to be a Witness for His glory.*

**The following is an example of a story.** As you read through this story, pay attention to some what you hear and how you could be a witness to the Story of God in this person's life.

*Claire loves her kids. She loves being a mom and providing a caring, loving, and safe home for them.*

*Claire grew up in a fairly chaotic home with her mom, dad, and 4 siblings. Her mom took them to church every weekend without fail, and they were very involved. Her dad, however, was verbally and emotionally abusive. Sometimes the abuse was physical as well- however the family kept quiet about it, in some ways Claire thought this was normal.*

*It wasn't until her late teens that she realized that abuse, rage, and isolation was not normal. And so, she decided to run away from anything having to do with that life.*

*She says that she is a Christian, but thinks that the church failed her family. Why did they only care about rules and not help when there was abuse? She hasn't given up on church or on God, but it can be difficult to trust the church and God.*

*After getting married, she vowed to have a loving, safe, and stable home for her whole family, but she often wondered if she was being "normal enough?" Did people see the chaos of her family in her? Could she have a normal life?*

*She did everything she could to create a normal family environment. She always went all out for birthdays. She had the best cake, the best decorations, the best gifts. Claire was diligent to take family photos every season. She looked for ways to create various memories for her children so that they didn't miss out on anything. She made sure to never use the "no" word with her kids. She made sure that they had the latest and greatest toys- only the best for the best family.*

*It never seemed to be enough to fight the taunts of her past. The thought that her life was always just shy of normalcy was always lurking in her mind. She tried hard to shove it aside. She tells herself that all of this work will be worth it someday; if she plays her cards right, she and her family will have a happy life. She just needs to keep trying and her kids will never know the pain of a difficult family.*

**Questions:**

- In who or what is Claire finding her identity?
- Whom or what is the fundamental *problem* she blames for the things that are broken in her life?
- Whom or what is she looking to as her *savior* to rescue or deliver her?
- What does Claire think restoration looks like and what is her ultimate *hope* for the future?
- How is your story similar to Claire's story? Do you relate to her?
- How is the Gospel good news for Claire?
- How would you share the Story of God with Claire?