

GOD'S STORY... MY STORY

As a young soldier during WWII I had become cut off from my platoon during a horrific battle when the enemy was winning. In desperation I ran fearfully hiding in a small cave crying out to God for protection. When my heart could plead no longer I looked up to see a spider weaving its web at the entrance to my cave. I cursed with burning anger, "God, I asked for protection and all You sent was this stupid spider!" My bitter complaint was broken by the sound of an enemy soldier with a machine gun crouching at the cave's entrance ready to kill. Suddenly he backed away calling out, "There's no one here as they would have had to break this spider's web to enter the cave. Let's move on." I learned that day to never minimize the ongoing story of God's extreme faithfulness to me even if He sends me a spider web! **Every ALL IN man is learning that the story of his life is a part of God's greater, grand, overarching narrative of His faithful redemption through Christ.** Every day God skillfully and graciously writes another page of the story of your life whether in dramatic outcomes or daily outtakes. What page (principle, truth) of His story did He write in your life this last week?



HISTORY = HIS STORY Acts 6:7 – 7:60 records a brief slice of Stephen's life story and, as the church's 1st martyr, documents how he shared God's story of redemption. When faced with opposition (persecution) Stephen chose not to deny his Lord but instead passed his test of persecution with flying colors. All pain has purpose and all tests are used by God to grow our testimonies. Where **there is no TEST there is no TESTIMONY.** As you hear Stephen's account of God's faithfulness through history, what part of His story most amazes you? Why? According to Acts 7:54-60, how did Stephen leave the results to God?

Whether viewed as extraordinary or ordinary, every ALL IN man has a story of God's faithfulness set against the backdrop of his own sin/rebellion. Now it's your turn to tell how God's powerful story of grace has intersected your personal story. All of us will discover that God is still writing our story as we follow Christ. Use the questions on the back to structure your story. (Mark 5:19-20)



1. Briefly describe how God was writing His story in your life (relationships, circumstances, experiences) **BEFORE** you even responded to His grace in Christ.
2. How did God get your attention **DURING** your conversion? What truths, Scripture, events and/or people did God use to convict you of your sin, lead you to repentance and draw you to Himself as Savior?
3. What inward/outward changes did you (others) see in your life **AFTER** God started growing you to become an ALL IN man? How did you move from **Religion** (God will love me if I change) to **Gospel** (God's love will change me)? In other words, what evidence is there that you are born again.
4. What verse or passage from the Bible most communicates the reality of God's story intersecting the story of your life? Why? Life verse.



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION + ASSIGNMENT God gives each of us multiple opportunities each week to tell our story of God's faithful grace to a world which does not understand. We encourage you to simply tell your story face-to-face, in writing, via mail letter, email, phone, Facebook, Instagram or tweet to someone who needs to hear. Tell your story to one another. No story? Penn Gillette.



EXTRA CREDIT All great stories that inspire and change lives have a **REDEMPTIVE PLOT** because the human heart is wired for grace, especially God's. A great story will have a **main character** (God the Father) who **desires** something badly (you for eternity) and **pursues** it (history) **against all odds** (constant adversity) with **great sacrifice** (crucifixion of His Son) and who **wins** in the end (resurrection). Test this 'formula' out on your favorite movie or book.