

Group Leader Guide “Compelling Vision” - Storyline February 14, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

If your funeral were today, what would people say about you? Did you live a compelling life? Or did you go through the motions? This week, teaching pastor Ben Foote kicks off a new series called Storyline, where we will take a look at the stories of our lives along with the story of Jesus, and see how the two connect. This week, we see that in order for our lives to have a compelling story, we must live with vision and purpose. Jesus offers us just that.

// Biblical Context: Samaria

Samaria is an area in central Israel. There was a lot of animosity between the Samaritans and the Jews living south of them in Judea and north of them in Galilee. The reason for this dates all the way back to 722 BC. At this time, Israel was divided into two separate kingdoms (Judah and Israel). In 722 BC., the kingdom of Israel, which mainly consisted of Samaria, was captured by the Assyrians. The Israelite leaders were led away into captivity, and the Assyrians populated the area with colonists, who intermarried with the native Israelites. Along with this intermarriage came the assimilation of culture and religion. They even established their own temple, modified the Holy Scriptures, and had their own messianic views. Israelites from the other kingdom saw the Samaritans as forsaking their God and culture, thus leading to the extreme animosity between the two groups.



// Biblical Background: Jacob's Well

Jacob's Well was located near the town of Sychar/Shechem. Jacob is one of the patriarchs of the Israelites. In fact, God renamed him from Jacob to Israel. It is from his line that all Jews claim heritage. He was the grandson of Abraham and father to the twelve men who became the heads of Israel's twelve tribes. This well was located on his historical property and could possibly be the same well where he met his wife, Rachel (Genesis 29). Today, an Orthodox church stands over the place this well is believed to have been.



// In Preparation

Welcome back! And to all the new leaders, welcome! Hopefully, this guide will help you learn a bit more about the background of whatever Bible teaching is going on during the weekend message. This will be a resource for you to gain some context around the text, be able to answer possible questions from your group members, and hopefully learn something new and interesting!

While the weekend message focuses mainly on application to our lives today, this guide aims to help put the Biblical text in the context of what was going on culturally at the time of its writing and give you, the leader, a more complete understanding of the Biblical meaning. It is by no means meant to be a comprehensive study, but merely a resource to help you feel prepared and confident heading into your groups. Also, feel free to send this out to the members of your groups.

This will post to the website every Friday by 5pm before the weekend the relevant message will be given.

The discussion questions for your group are on the following page.

Take some time before your first group to pray for each of your members, even if you don't know them yet. Pray that they will begin to feel safe to open up and share their lives with you and the other people in the group. Pray that God will use you in whatever way He desires to bring the people in your group closer to Him.

// References

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017.



Group Discussion Questions “Compelling Vision” - Storyline February 14, 2021

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// Bible References

John 10:10; John 4:7-42

// Message Screenshots

- If your life is telling a story, is it a compelling story?
- Compelling Vision: “I exist to...”
- “If you watched a movie about a guy who wanted a Volvo and worked for years to get it, you wouldn’t cry at the end when he drove off the lot, testing the windshield wipers. You wouldn’t tell your friends you saw a beautiful movie or go home and put a record on to think about the story you’d seen. The truth is, you wouldn’t remember that movie a week later, except you’d feel robbed and want your money back. Nobody cries at the end of a movie about a guy who wants a Volvo.
But we spend years actually living those stories, and we expect our lives to be meaningful.
The truth is, if what we choose to do with our lives won’t make a story meaningful, it won’t make a life meaningful either.” -Donald Miller, “A Million Miles in a Thousand Years”
- Write a Vision Statement for your life: “I exist to...”
- “I exist to creatively communicate a constant God to a constantly changing culture.” - Ben Foote

// Community Question

1. What is your favorite movie, book, or story in general?

// Discussion Questions

1. If your funeral were held today, what would people say about how you lived your life?
2. How do you want to be remembered?
3. Read **John 4:9**. The Samaritan woman allowed her social status as a Samaritan and a woman cause her to think she was unworthy of Jesus’ time. What about your status in the world (financial, gender, age, level of authority, etc.) do you let disqualify you from certain things in life?
4. Read **John 4:17-18**. The Samaritan woman also allowed her numerous broken relationships to define her and cause her to hide from others in her community. What negative events from your past do you hide from others and allow to define your story?
5. The Samaritan woman had settled for a life of shame avoidance and finding her identity in empty relationships. What are you settling for in your story?



6. What do you hope whatever it is you are settling for will bring you?
7. What, and/or who, really matters to you in your life?
8. How might having a compelling vision statement for your life help in cultivating what really matters to you?

// **Challenge**

Ben challenged us to create a Vision Statement this week. Spend some time on your own thinking about what it could be, writing it down, and working on it. Keep in mind that it shouldn't just encapsulate what you do in your life, but why you do it. It should be deeper than something like "I exist to make money." Come back next week ready to share what you came up with with the group!