

# WEEK 9: WHY AND HOW SHOULD I TELL OTHERS?

## OBJECTIVE

Help your group understand greater story God is writing and how to communicate the restorative power of Jesus Christ in their own stories by sharing the key events that have shaped who they are today.

### CHECK LIST

- Prepare to share how you told your faith story with someone this past week
- Prepare the future small group leader to lead the group this week, and invite them to join you at training
- Read Notes on “Sharing Your Story and What People are Really Thinking When They Invite You to Church” found in the appendix
- Have two people share stories if needed. Everyone should have had a chance to share their story by the end of this session.

## PRAYER POINTS

God will give everyone opportunities to tell their stories of faith, and that they will be ignited with a passion to share their faith as a way of sharing the Good News.

Those who have not committed to Christ would be willing to share more about their journey, and what brought them to Rooted.

You would be a bold leader, challenging people to set aside their fears when it comes to sharing their stories, and holding them accountable.

## GROUP TIME

### Welcome—15 minutes

- Explain that the future life group leader will be leading this week’s session.
- Where did God meet you or surprise you this week?

### Story—10 minutes

- Have two people share their 2-5 minute story of how they came to Christ, or how they ended up in this group.

*TIP: Take notes when each person shares their story, writing down things they question or may not believe, or breakthroughs in their spiritual journey. You will use all of these notes when you pray for them to break free of strongholds, and during the celebration.*

### **Introductory Question—15 minutes**

*TIP: Review your notes from the past eight sessions and see if there are any conversations you need to circle back to, in order to have a great discussion this week.*

- What is a great adventure you have taken? Did you have any fear on the journey? What is a dangerous thing you have done?

### **Discussion—30 minutes**

- Did you share your faith? How was that experience for you?
- Talk about fears that may be, or were associated with sharing their stories.
- If members did not share their story, present the challenge again and encourage them to lean into it. The goal is not that every person who shares leads someone to Christ, but that everyone follows His leading, and shares his or her faith with someone.

*TIP: Use the “neighbor map” found in the appendix to write down the names of their neighbors.*

- Talk through the importance of prayer and the Holy Spirit when we share our story.

*TIP: Be sensitive to those in the group who may not be believers. They have a story, and it matters. Make sure to communicate that so they don't feel isolated during this coming week. Encourage them to share about a time they felt there was something bigger than themselves, or experienced true community, love, and acceptance, or how they ended up in Rooted and what they are learning.*

### **Cardboard Testimonies—30 minutes**

- Give everyone a piece of cardboard/paper, and ask them to write two or three words about where they were when they began the Rooted journey 10 weeks ago, then on the other side, where God has them today. “Ten weeks ago, I was...” then “Today, I am...”
- Have each person share their cardboard testimony. Start by modeling for your group where you were 10 weeks ago and where you are today. The goal is that through these few simple words, a story is shared from then to now.

## **Prayer Requests—15 minutes**

- Help people define where they are, and where they need to go spiritually. If any group members have not been baptized, find out if they would like to do this at the Rooted celebration.
- You can pray as a whole group or break into prayer partners.

## **Closing—5 minutes**

- Remind everyone of the importance of confidentiality.
- Remember to thank the small group leader who led the group tonight.
- Cover any details necessary for the Rooted Celebration and the upcoming opportunity to be baptized.

# **WORKBOOK REVIEW**

## **Why & How Should I Tell Others?**

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

### **1 Peter 3:15**

#### **DAY 1 – GETTING THE WORD OUT**

What's the biggest challenge you face in telling your story with someone?

If you are a Christ follower, have you ever shared your faith story with someone else?

If you've done so, how did it go? If you haven't, why not?

Who are three people in your life that don't know Jesus?

#### **DAY 2 – GOD'S STORY**

What do you think of God's story?

Are there any parts you disagree with, or are there any parts that confuse you? Explain.

Do you think you could write down from memory the major point of each of the four parts?

If you have heard the story of God before, either as a child or in a different context, how was it explained to you? How does it relate to what you read today?

### **DAY 3 & 4 – YOUR STORY**

How do you feel about telling your story to others?

How does this affect how you think about evangelism?

### **DAY 5 – TIME TO TELL**

Do you have opportunities in your life to meet the needs of others? Have there been opportunities to tell your story of faith in these situations? If not, how can you challenge yourself in this?

Remember the three people you have been praying for. Share your story of faith with them in a way that is relevant and succinct.

Pray about someone you can invite to the next session of Rooted. How can you tell him/her how Rooted has impacted or changed you?