



TAKE Home: Personal Testimony

One of the neat things about the Story of scripture is that it isn't *just* the Story of scripture...it's also *our* Story. God has actually written us into his Story, and our lives—our own personal stories—are all part of God's bigger Story. In other words, we've become characters in the greatest Story possible.

Now, because of that, just like we can figure out how each story from scripture fit in God's bigger Story, we can also figure out how our own stories fit in his bigger Story. Just like there are stories about creation, rebellion, promise, redemption, church, and restoration in the Bible, we also have those stories in our lives. For example, each of us has resisted God like Jonah. And each of us has doubted Jesus like Thomas. But each of us has also experienced forgiveness like Mary Magdalene. And God uses each of us like Paul. We can see each of those stories in our own lives still today. That's the power of scripture. It doesn't just describe how God worked with people way back when. This Story still describes us.

When we think about our lives that way and talk them as part of God's bigger Story, we call that a personal testimony or witnessing. Think about it: What is a witness supposed to do? At a trial, what do the judge and lawyers ask the witnesses to talk about? They ask them to tell what they saw, what they heard, what they experienced. It's the same with our witness about Jesus Christ. We're called to talk about what we've seen God do in our lives, what we've experienced as Christians, how we've felt him work in us and through us. That's all a personal testimony really is—witnessing about God's work in our lives as part of his bigger Story.

So, what's your personal testimony? What events from your life fit into the different Acts of the Story? Where have you seen God at work in your life? How have you experienced God's presence? How does your life fit into God's bigger Story? As an exercise before our next class, outline three versions of your testimony: What would you say to someone if you had one minutes, three minutes, and five minutes to tell them about God's work in your life?