

# Sharing Stories in Group

## Essentials for Bonding as a Group

Sharing your stories in the early months of a new Community Group is an essential part of bonding as a group. There are two basic approaches to sharing your stories: **1** invite a few people each week to share their entire story, or **2** invite everyone to share small parts of their story over the course of several group meetings.

### OPTION 1: STORIES IN A SINGLE SESSION

Use a method below to guide your group members to structure their stories in a way that helps them communicate the most important details and connect with the other members of the group.

#### The “3-3-3” Story

Share three key people, three key places, and three key events that have shaped who you are today.

#### The “Top 10 List” Story

Share the top ten things you think the rest of the group needs to know about you.

#### The “2x4” Story

Spend two minutes talking about four aspects of your life: family of origin, current family, spiritual journey, and desired future.

#### The “Five Ways God Uses” Story

Provide one example of how God has used these five things to grow your faith: *practical teaching, providential relationships, private discipline, personal ministry, and pivotal circumstances.*

Pick one of the four methods and have a few people share each week. These are also great icebreakers to use during future group meetings.

### OPTION 2: STORIES IN SMALL DOSES

Allow everyone to take about two minutes to share a piece of his or her story each session, across six sessions. Here’s how it works:

#### Sessions One and Two: Background

Share a few details about childhood, adolescence, high school, college and early adulthood.

#### Session Three: Defining Moments

Tell the group about important moments that have shaped you. This can include significant life events and decisions.

#### Session Four: Defining Relationships

Talk about some of the people who have influenced and contributed to your life. Explain their importance during specific seasons of your life.

#### Session Five and Six: Faith

Share a few crucial details about your journey toward a relationship with Jesus. How has God pursued you? How have you ended up where you are today in your relationship with him?

This approach to storytelling has a few big benefits.

1. Each week, everyone in the group gets to listen and talk. This tends to keep everyone more fully engaged.
2. If someone can’t make a group meeting, he or she only missed a portion of everyone’s stories instead of missing a member’s or a couple’s entire story.
3. Because of the round-robin nature of this approach, storytelling is less likely to stretch on weeks longer than is helpful for the momentum of the group.

