



I want you to know that stories are powerful. They are a part of what it means to be alive. From the beginning of time, stories have allowed humans to connect with each other and give meaning to life. Stories help us put ourselves in the scene and experience the emotions, sights, sounds and stirrings of other people. A story invites us to become participants rather than just spectators. Stories evoke emotion and make otherwise abstract principles come to life. In fact that is actually what Jesus did throughout the Gospels. He told stories. Rather than teach forgiveness principles, Jesus told a story about a man with two sons. One took his inheritance before his father died and squandered it on wild living. After he lost everything he had, the son came to his senses and returned home to his father. His dad forgave him, gave him a new set of clothes and hosted a grand celebration. In telling the story, Jesus was essentially saying, "There, that's what forgiveness looks like." Every Christian has a story to tell. Maybe you don't have a dramatic jaw dropping story to tell but that's not necessary. What is necessary is that we are telling

our own story. Please do not diminish the power of your story, no matter how boring or uneventful it may seem. God will use your story to reach people who are just like you.

We have to learn not to hide our stories in the hope that no one will ever see or hear who we really are. We have to tell it, we have to show it. Let your story be evidence of your strength and bravery that shouts to the world that everything is possible when you trust in Jesus. Realize that your disappointments, bad decisions, and darkest struggles can be the most life-changing parts of your story. Your worst chapters can become your greatest victories and impact someone else's life.



When you and I become honest and vulnerable with others by telling our story then God speaks through our story to bring hope. When we keep our stories to ourselves, we deny others the opportunity to discover the love of Jesus for themselves. When someone hears your story, it may make a connection and speak into something that's happening in their life. There is power in your story because God is in your story. God will bring people across your path who need someone who understands.

When a divine appointment meets a deliverance story, healing happens. You may never know the why of your story, but you can experience the how of redemption when you share how God got you through. Telling your story has the potential to set someone else free. Telling your story also has the ability to set you free – and to affect generations to come. That's why your story matters. That is why as a church we need to get better at telling our stories because our stories can help change someone's eternity.