

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

Welcome to week 9. You have a lot behind you now as you enter this week and the Rooted celebration is only two weeks away. Hopefully, everyone has had the opportunity to share their personal stories throughout the course of Rooted. If some haven't, make sure it happens this week.

REMINDERS

- Check to make sure everyone will have shared their stories.
- You should have decided what your next step after Rooted will be.
- If your group is becoming a Life Group, who will the leaders be?

RESOURCES

- Rooted Before/After testimony cards
- Celebration dinner potluck sign-up
- "Who is My Neighbor?" Graphic

ABOUT WEEK 9

Sometimes when we think about sharing our stories, fear begins to rise within us. But the truth is that sharing our faith is right from scripture. Matthew 28:19 tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. This can only be done by telling people who Jesus is. People around us are seeking fulfillment in all the things the world has to offer. But we know that real life is only found in Jesus and the only way to this life is a relationship with Him. We should, therefore, pray for the courage to share our stories when the opportunity presents itself.

This week's discussion focuses on how to share our stories well. The homework walks us through our stories in three parts.

1. Our lives before we met Jesus
2. How we came to our relationship with Jesus
3. What our lives are like now that we have encountered Jesus

This is the gospel message, that though we were sinners, Jesus came into our lives, freed us from the bondage of sin and enables us to live the life we were created to live. Now, God has placed us in our families, our neighborhoods, and our workplaces so that we can demonstrate and share this message. This week, it would be great if you came to the group with a story of how you shared your faith and what happened. That would be a great motivation for people to also share their stories with others.

Cardboard Testimonies

One of the ways we encourage people to share their stories is through the cardboard testimonies. The cardboard is a quick and effective way to share what God has done. One

side is the **Before Rooted** story - who you were when you first came to Rooted (For example, *I was self-centered*). The other side is the **After Rooted** Story - who you are/what God has taught you through Rooted now that you been Rooted (for example, *I am blessed to be a blessing*). Allow some people to share their cardboard testimonies and keep a record of these as they represent what God has been doing over the last 10 weeks. You will use them for the Prophetic prayers. Review your notes and the facilitator guide as you prayerfully prepare for the prophetic prayers.

We will be requesting some people to share their cardboard testimonies at the celebration dinner. Please have them write their names on the testimony cards so we can tell them apart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Hand out the **Before/After testimony** card. Have people fill them in and collect and submit the forms of those who will be sharing the testimonies at the dinner.
- **Prophetic Prayers** is coming up in week 10! This is when we get to pray prophetically over our participants, calling them out to their purpose as the Holy Spirit leads. Please review each person's story and pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you prepare. We will discuss this more when we meet.
- **Potluck Celebration Dinner** will be held **Friday, March 27th, from 6-8pm** in the Commons. Each group should bring 3 main dishes, 3 sides, and 3 desserts. Spouses who have not attended Rooted are invited to attend.
- **The Next Steps** conversation should be happening now. If your group is planning on becoming a Life Group, you should identify who the leaders will be (if you don't plan on leading the life group). The **New Life Group Leader Training** is scheduled for **Sunday, April 19th at 10 am.**