

# BOLDLY GO RESOURCES // WEEK 3

## TELLING YOUR GOSPEL STORY

“We are creatures of story, created by a storytelling God, who created the very fabric of our reality in terms of His story. Rather than seeing our existence as a series of unconnected random events without purpose, storytelling brings meaning to our lives through the analogy of carefully crafted plot that reflects the loving sovereignty of the God of the Bible.”

-Brian Godawa, Award-Winning Filmmaker

Understanding God’s Story is essential for properly interpreting the Creation - Fall - Redemption - Restoration elements in our own story. Though we regularly believe that our stories are about us, our stories are really about God. “In him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)

### Telling Your Story Through a Gospel Framework

Think through the four elements of your story as enumerated below, and consider how each one is an opportunity to point to your need for God and his work.

#### 1. CREATION (focusing on origin & identity)

God’s Story begins with him bringing everything into existence. He is the author and main character of the Story, and all things find their worth in him. As you begin your gospel story, talk about your background, some early shaping influences, and what gave you your sense of worth and value.

**Key Question:** Who or what most shaped your understanding of yourself? What were the sources of your sense of personal value and identity?

#### 2. FALL (focusing on brokenness & blame)

The world we live in is not as it should be. We are not as we should be. God’s Story shows us that our own sin is the primary thing that wreaks havoc on our lives. As you tell your gospel story, talk about specific ways that your sin brought about pain and destruction in your life. Include failed attempts at fixing the brokenness in your life.

**Key Question:** How was your relationship with God and others not the way God created it to be? Why?



### 3. REDEMPTION (focusing on rescue and deliverance)

All of us look to created things to save us, to rescue us, to give us significance, and to make us right—money, possessions, acceptance, approval, relationships, achievements, education, government, recreation, and self-fulfillment. But the gospel tells a different story! In the Redemption element of your story, you get to declare your faith in Jesus as the One who has saved and rescued you. Talk specifically about how you placed your trust in Jesus to save and rescue from your sin and from the brokenness in your life. Describe how Jesus's life, death, and resurrection have brought redemption to specific broken parts of your story.

**Key Question:** How has Jesus redeemed and rescued you through his death on the cross? How did you come to put your faith and trust in Him to save you and restore your life to the way God intended it to be?

### 4. RESTORATION (focusing on hope and transformation)

Because of what Jesus has done, restoration has begun. We are a new creation, and we've been made right with the Father! In God's Story, restoration means that his image bearers begin to live in the way they were originally created to live. His Spirit lives in and through us, making us more like Jesus, even though we are still living in a fallen, broken world. Conclude your gospel story by talking about what the Spirit is doing in your life now. Share some evidences of his grace, indicators that you've been made new, that his restorative work has already begun in you.

**Key Question:** What has changed and is changing in your life now? Who and what is the focus of your life today?

## A FEW STORY TIPS

- Make your story about five minutes long. Prepare a short version to tell in 30-45 seconds.
- Try to avoid religious vocabulary that your non-Christian friend might have trouble understanding.
- Don't fear what people might think.
- Practice telling your story with close friends and family. Invite them to give you feedback on how to improve.
- Be prepared to share your gospel story in the midst of spiritual conversations. Pray and ask the Spirit to speak through you as you tell your story.

