



CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

SERMON #4 DISCUSSION GUIDE: Week of October 3, 2021

Scripture: Revelation 12:10-11

Big Idea: God is writing His story through your life.

Discussion Questions:

1. ICEBREAKER: Do you know the meaning of your name? <https://www.names.org>
2. We all have an internal monologue. What is yours? Does it need to shift? If so, how will you do so?
3. If 80% of our daily thoughts are negative, then what are you intentionally doing to make them more positive and more biblically sound?
4. CHALLENGE: Spend some time this week to write down your testimony. Share it with a friend or someone in your group.

Action Steps:

1. Spend some time this week writing out your story. Sit and pray and think about your story and how it condemns or convicts you. If the story condemns you, ask God to help take away that pain and anger and let that story be something that convicts you. Then, share your story with someone else. A family member, friend or co-worker. Share with them how God has changed your life or is working in your life so they may see the glory of His kingdom.
2. Mark your calendar to serve with the church on **October 9** with and for our community neighbors!

Changing the Narrative Sermon Content Review:

We all have a story. Every person has a narrative of their life and their past that they can tell. your story may be exciting like something you would see on a TV show or a movie. Your story may look boring and may sound a lot like other people you know. No matter where you are on this spectrum, your story belongs to you. While two stories may sound alike, there are ALWAYS differences. And the truth is, your story will either convict or condemn you.

You see, condemnation comes from the enemy, Satan. Satan wants our stories to hold us back and condemn us to a life of pain, grief, depression, and suffering. He wants to steal, kill and destroy. However, the Holy Spirit wants to convict us. He wants our stories to not create hinderances to God, but rather to strengthen us in our resolve and push forward. God's conviction is a wonderful thing, it's evidence that he hasn't given up on you. It's evidence that he loves you. It's evidence that he wants to help walk you through this and get you to the other side.

The first four letters of every testimony is "test". The way you get a testimony is by passing a test. That's why James 1 says, *"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."* James 1:2-4. And once you get it, you need to use it. Why? Because it's not "your" testimony. Your testimony is your gift to the world.

Gospel: Jesus will build his church and the Holy Spirit empowers us to play a role. When we know the story of God and listen to the stories around us, it helps us understand better the part that God is inviting us to play.

REFERENCE: <https://national.cc/media/neighbor>

Notes: