



How (Not) to Save the World, Week 2: Silence Your Story

How can we reveal God's love right where we are?

- Make _____.
- Have _____.
- Share your _____.

The truth about what God uses:

God uses: Our _____.

- Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT)
- Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 (VOICE)

God uses: What we've _____.

But this beautiful treasure is contained in us—cracked pots made of earth and clay—so that the transcendent character of this power will be clearly seen as coming from God and not from us. We are cracked and chipped from our afflictions on all sides, but we are not crushed by them. We are bewildered at times, but we do not give in to despair. We are persecuted, but we have not been abandoned. We have been knocked down, but we are not destroyed. We always carry around in our bodies the reality of the brutal death and suffering of Jesus. As a result, His resurrection life rises and reveals its wondrous power in our bodies as well.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (VOICE)

God uses: Our _____ to reveal His _____.

When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

John 12:9-11 (NLT)

...your life story confirms the life story of the Anointed One.

1 Corinthians 1:6 (VOICE)

Discussion Questions

1. What are the ways that shame stands in the way of us being who we are and sharing our story?
2. What is at risk if we live lives performing and putting on a show, instead of being who we really are?
3. How would our families, churches, and cities be different if we saw the value of our details, our backgrounds, and our stories as part of God's plan to show His love?

Recommended Resources

- *How (Not) to Save the World*, by Hosanna Wong
- *You Be You*, by Jamie Ivey
- *Woman Evolve*, by Sarah Jakes Roberts
- *Mere Evangelism: 10 Insights From C.S. Lewis to Help You Share Your Faith*, by Randy Newman
- *Healing from Shame (Life.Church Sermon)*, by Craig Groeschel
- *He Still Wants You (The Potter's House Sermon)*, by Bishop T.D. Jakes



How (Not) to Save the World

Session 1 | Go Big or Get Out & Silence Your Story (Play our Part / Live Lights on Windows Open)

Connect: In your small group, take 5 to 7 mins to connect. Below are a few questions to guide your discussion.

- Growing up, who was your favorite superhero and why?
- On a light-hearted level, what is one superhero power you would love to have?
- On a more serious note, what is one way you would like to make a difference in the world?

Read: In your small group, read and reflect on the following passages. See reflection questions below.

Peter 4:10-11

***10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

Reflect:

- What does this passage teach us about our role in serving God and others?
- What is a gift or personality trait you have that God could use to share His love with others?

Ephesians 2:1-10

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Reflect:

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- How does this passage encourage us to not silence our stories?
- How have you experienced God's grace in your life?
- How would our world look different if each and every one of us played our part, and discovered our next step in sharing our story?

Pray: Pray for one another, asking God for ideas of how to play our part in our communities, and opportunities to show His love to others in small ways throughout the week.