

**The Story Series
Get Ready
03/26/22
Newport News**

Opening

-shout out to Mike and Lindy...one year anniversary 3/26!

-This series: The Bible tells a story and you have a part to play. (talk about this some)

-And although all our parts will be dramatically different, at some point we will all share the same moment, the moment we discover the goodwill of Jesus.

Introduction

-Last week...

>goodwill: benevolence, compassion, goodness, kindness, consideration, charity

>Goodwill, in its purest form, is not dependent on the merit of the recipient. Goodwill is predicated on the character of the giver.

-Luke 2:14 (KJV)

-(show diagram of where we left off)

-Our greatest need, our deepest longing is to know God and to be known by Him...

-(show diagram once we are finished with the series)

-(show diagram of tonight's emphasis)

-Get ready to Tell the Story!

-But before we continue with tonight's message...

LINK

-www.effectiveministries.org

-(some things here on the steps, take pictures but don't take them...)

-Trips this year

- Connect – July (deadline 4/5)
- Discover & Serve – September (deadline 6/14)
- Medical – October (deadline 6/21)
- Serve Men – November (deadline 8/16)

-I want you to talk with us first...they will ask you "Have you talked to either Pastor Fred or Pastor Vanessa?"

-(show Niger pic)

-text for tonight's message: Acts 8:25-40

-All of God's family is called to the work of evangelism. Evangelists are specifically called by God to mobilize the family of God for the work of evangelism.

Go South (vs. 26)

-The places where we are supposed to go.

-Even if you can't identify a conversation with God that led to you being where you are, remember the sovereignty of God is always on our side.

-Every place we are that relied on the decision of another person makes room for the sovereignty of God to operate.

- Your neighborhood
- Your job
- Your military transfer
- Your family of origin
- Your college/university

-Psalm 37:23-24

-Genesis 12:1

Go Over (vs. 29)

-The people we are supposed to meet.

-Because of where we are... (explain connection to above list)

-In the routine of your day: (use verse 29 here)

- Consider the Holy Spirit
- Don't be too quick to speak
- Look for a need you can meet

-John 4:4-8

He Urged (vs. 31)

-The time we are supposed to sacrifice.

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."
J.R.R. Tolkien

-Psalm 24:1-3

-When I was in Niger, I realized that even though the Christians I met are not materially wealthy, they are rich with the understanding that all their time belongs to Jesus.

-There is a saying Niger, "You Americans have watches, we have time."

-(read excerpt about Michael's meeting with the President)

Tell Me (v. 34)

-The Story we are supposed to know.

-(show slide of the FULL Story again)

-I'm going to keep talking to you about the dream I want City Life to share in together...for Jesus to be easy to find in our city!!!!

-(talk about The Story cards we are developing)

-(talk about this sermon series...)

-1 Peter 3:15

He ordered (v. 38)

-The next steps we are supposed to aid.

-2 Corinthians 5:11

-All of these steps we have talked about so far in this sermon might not happen all in the same day: neighbors, co-workers, family members, old friends...

-Whether it's all playing out in a moment or over-time, always look for a next step you can give that person...

- Coffee/lunch/dinner
- Church event or small group
- Church service
- Read a book together
- The Story card
- Follow up conversation
- Going back to their church
- Picking a Bible reading plan
- Making a vow of devotion to Jesus
- Water Baptism

Band

-What is inattentional blindness? (basketball and gorilla pic)

One of the best-known experiments demonstrating inattentional blindness is the "invisible gorilla test" carried out by Christopher Chabris, PhD, and Daniel Simons, PhD. In this experiment, researchers asked participants to watch a video of people tossing a basketball, and the observers were told to count the number of passes or to keep track of the number of throws versus bounce passes.

Afterward, the participants were asked if they had noticed anything unusual while watching the video. Across all the tests, approximately 50% of the participants reported seeing nothing out of the ordinary.

But in reality, something odd *had* happened. In some instances, a woman dressed in a gorilla suit strolled through the scene, turned to the camera, thumped her chest, and walked away. While it may seem

impossible that the participants missed such a sight since their attention was focused elsewhere and on a demanding task, the gorilla basically became invisible.

One of the reasons why people so often "miss the gorilla," so to speak, is simply because the stimulus does not fit into their idea of what a basketball game is supposed to look like.

-Are we missing the people that God has brought across our paths to tell the Story of the Gospel simply because these moments don't fit into our idea of what a typical day in the life of Christian looks like?

Close

-Acts 8:40