



# Groups

**Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!** If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of page 2.

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**SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE**  
for the Sermon given on June 19, 2022  
"What's Your Story?" Acts 22:1-21



This is our final week of our spring series, "The Good and Beautiful Life" and the last Sunday of the ministry year before heading into the summer season. In the previous weeks, we covered the five missional practices that Jesus modeled for us and that the early church adopted as well. The acrostic is BLESS – which represents "Begin in Prayer," "Listen with Care," "Eat with Others," "Serve in Humility," and "Share Your Story" and today we will focus on "What's your story?"

## **Group Discussion Questions**

Q – Sharing the story of our faith journey or "sharing our testimony" has always been challenging for a variety of reasons. What have been your concerns or fears about sharing your faith and have you made any discoveries that have made sharing more natural?

Q – Let's read Acts 22:1-21. After we read it together, let's also look at it by ourselves and invite the text to speak to us. Looking closely at the account, what parts of Paul's story bring you anxiety, perspective, and/or encouragement?

Q – Throughout the series, we have been using the acrostic BLESS that included 5 Missional Practices: "Begin in Prayer," "Listen with Care," "Eat with Others," "Serve in Humility," and "Share Your Story". Pastor Bryan made the point that sometimes, Jesus followers live with the BLES spelling of only one 'S' and do not live with the practice of sharing your story. Reflecting

on your life and drawing from Acts, discuss what is lost and what is gained when we share our story?

Q – One of the amazing aspects of stories is how powerful they are to people. Think about a faith story that you will never forget – what made it so memorable to you? Second, while we cannot exaggerate or make up false narratives to “spice up our testimony,” every life that God touches is miraculous and amazing. What is unique about your story?

Q – Throughout this series, various communicators have expressed a sentiment along the lines of not seeing BLESS as a relevant topic limited to our spring series but a way of life that we as individuals and as a church can carry throughout life. Spend a few moments and imagine what would happen around you if we lived out these 5 missional practices and blessed others consistently.

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### How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
  - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
  - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

**Group Leader Support:** Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.