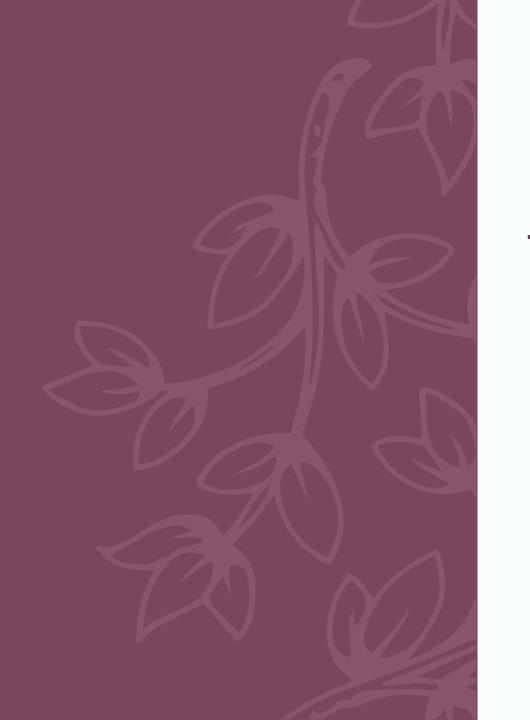


Storytelling for You and Your Church

Workshop by Erica Nelson

Texas Impact's Courts and Ports Coordinator



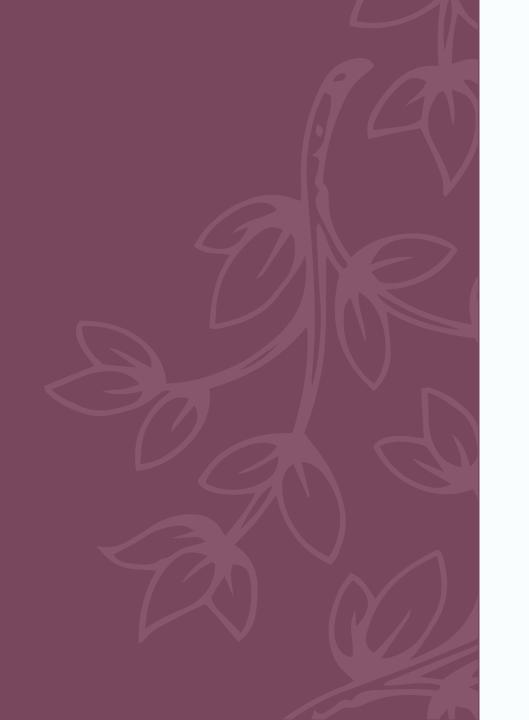
What's Your Story?

- Write about a moment where your voice counted or where you made a difference
- Think of one of your strengths. Write about a moment where you demonstrated that strength.
- Think about a time when you were heartbroken. Write about that experience.
- What is a moment in your life that has made you who you are today?



What's Your Community's Story?

- Describe a defining moment in the history of your community.
- Describe a recent moment (within the last year) where your community lived up to its values or mission.
- Describe a recent moment (within the last year) where your community failed to live up to its values or mission.



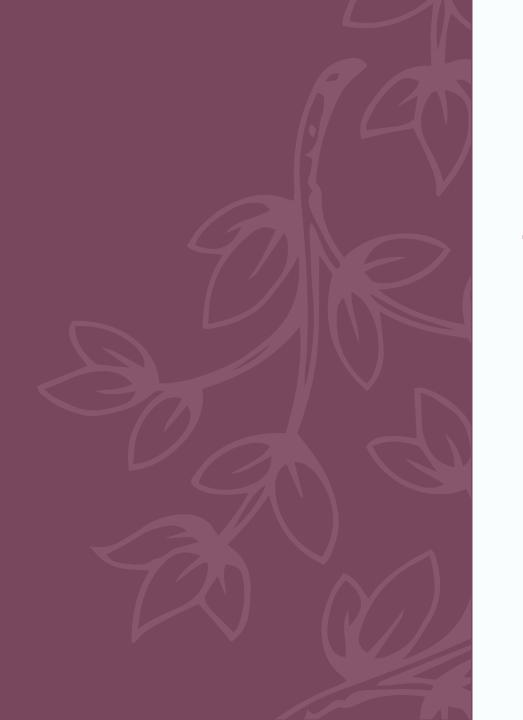
Why We Tell Our Story

- Stories define us, they remind us of who we are and how we came to be
- Stories bring us in relationship with others
- Stories can impart important lessons
- Stories can help us understand something we have never experienced
- Stories can move others to action and impact change



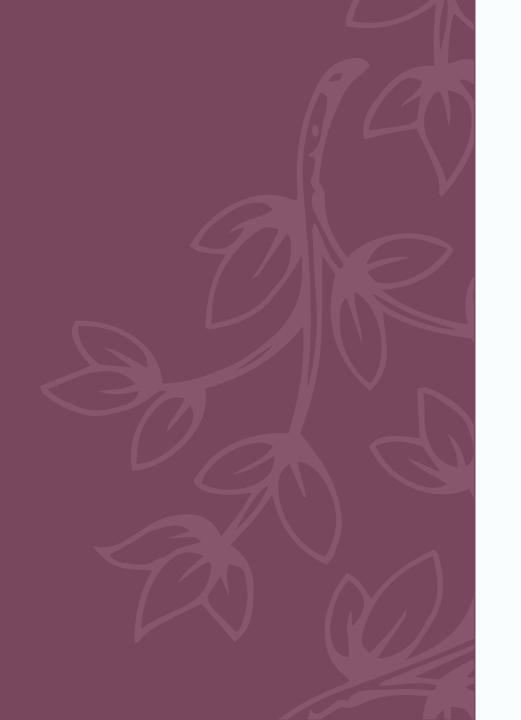
The Way We Tell Our Story Matters

- Hero Narrative:
 - Reactive
 - Reacts to a singular event
 - One person
- Movement Narrative:
 - Proactive
 - Works towards long term change
 - Groups of people



Rosa Parks: Hero or Part of a Movement?

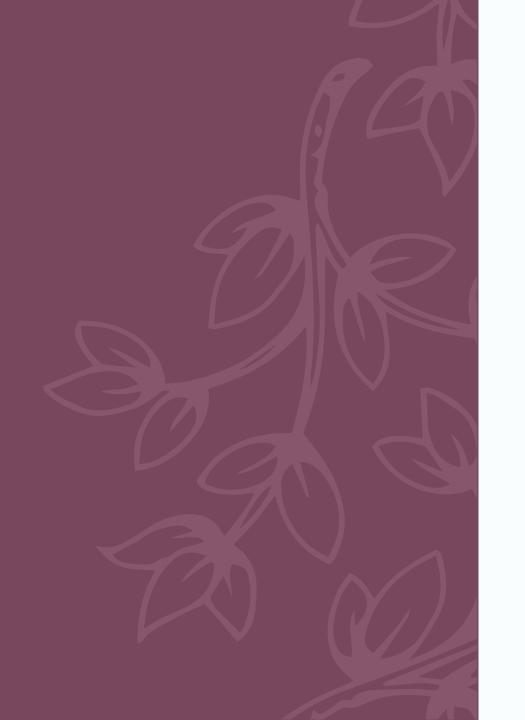
- David LaMotte writes about the story of Rosa Parks:
 - Schools teach us that she was "a seemingly powerless little old African American lady who had made a spontaneous decision not to give up her seat to a White man on a Montgomery bus in 1955 and literally changed the world with her courage."
- Hero narrative: she rose up in a moment of need and changed the world
- Movement narrative: she was part of a movement, had trained and planned for this moment, had been an activist for more than a decade before this happened



Telling Your Story Requires Knowing Your Story

- Who are you? Or who is your community?
- What are your strengths and values?

– Know Your Community Treasure Hunt



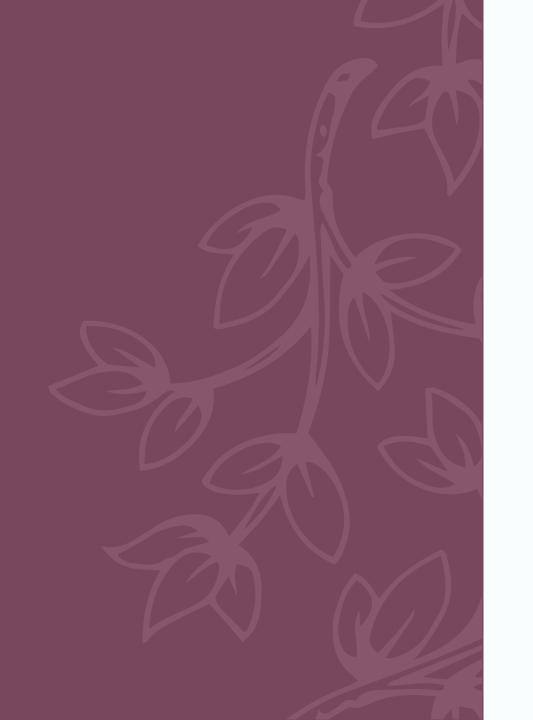
How We Tell Our Story

- What's the context in which you are sharing your story?
 - How long do you have to talk?
 - Who is your audience?
 - What is your desired impact?



What Stands Out About Your Story?

- Focus on the things that make your story unique
- Use descriptive language: what sights, sounds, smells, or tastes stand out in your telling of the story?



Formats

- Social Media
- Articles or OpEds to your local newspaper
- Sermons, bible studies, prayer circles
- Meetings with elected officials
- Conversations with others

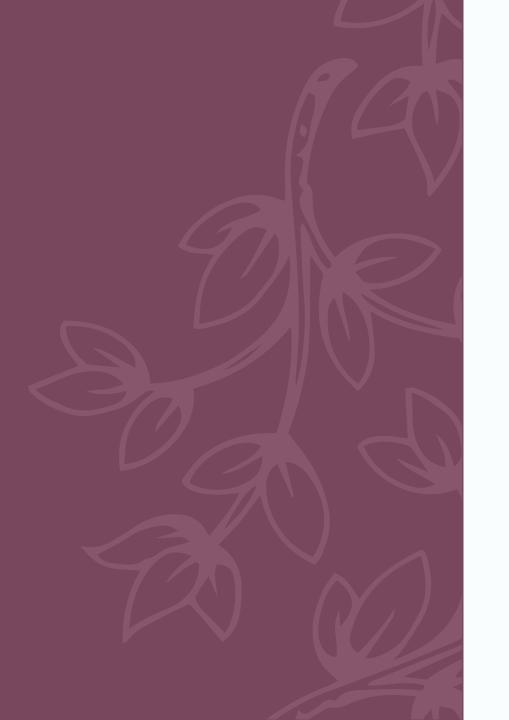
As people of faith, we should know our local community.

We are **better citizens** when we appreciate the challenges our local leaders face. We are **better advocates** when we can use personal experience to share community needs with elected officials. We are **better neighbors** when we understand the lives our sisters and brothers live.

Know Your Community Treasure Hunt

Community Treasure Hunt

 We are working on updating our old Community Treasure Hunt publication and making it a formal study that your congregation can use.



Know Your Community Beta Program

- We are looking for three churches to participate in our Know Your Community program.
- Two churches are already participating in the Alpha program, helping to design and tweak the program as we go.
- We would like three churches to follow behind and make sure the changes we have made to the program work and make sense