



Storytelling for You and Your Church

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What's Your Story?

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- 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

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- Who are you? Or who is your community?
 - What are your strengths and values?
 - Know Your Community Treasure Hunt



How We Tell Our Story

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- 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

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- 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