**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: What’s Your Story?**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [John 4:5–30](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn4.5-30).

**Consider**

We all experience conversations that lead us to changes. Perhaps a conversation with a coach or teacher comes to mind. Someone may have challenged you to give more effort or left you feeling good about what you accomplished. Perhaps you’ve had a conversation with someone that helped them in their situation.

We read something similar in this Bible story. Jesus had a long talk with a woman at a well. She was simply making a trip to get some water. She didn’t anticipate that day would lead to a conversation that would change her life. What may have taken only a few minutes probably turned into a lifetime of new conversations for the woman.

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| **QUESTION**  What was the background of this woman? |

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| **QUESTION**  How did the woman react when she learned Jesus was the Messiah? |

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| **QUESTION**  What did Jesus speak to you the last time you had a conversation with Him? |

**Reflect**

This woman went to the well alone to avoid the other women in town. She had a bad reputation in her community. She had a story that didn’t look like it was going to have a happy ending. Perhaps you’ve done some things that have separated you from others. Perhaps you feel alone in a crowd.

This story can help you understand that Jesus wants to speak with you regardless of your choices. Why? To help bring about a change in your life story.

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| **QUESTION**  Do you feel like your life story is heading for a happy ending? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**  What would you say to Jesus if He were sitting with you right now? |

**Activate**

Jesus wants to hear from you. Take time to have the conversation with Him that you’ve been wanting to have. Let Him know what’s on your heart. Trust Him that He wants a greater ending for your life story.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank You for staying with me, even when I don’t feel like You are near. Help me to trust You with my life story. Help me to believe that You want to redirect my story toward a better end. I also ask for all my family and friends who are struggling in this area. Help them to embrace You as You offer to change their story for the better. Amen.

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**Day 2: A Friendly Reminder**

**Engage**

Read [Isaiah 43:16–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is43.16-21).

**Consider**

The prophet Isaiah painted a picture in these verses. He referred to when the Israelites fled from Egypt and the Egyptian Pharaoh and crossed the Red Sea. It’s there that the Egyptians were buried in the sea, and the Israelites escaped.

There are many stories in the Bible that God uses in our life. Yes, they serve as reminders for us, but they also tell us that God can perform the same in our life today. Perhaps your enemy is your past, your shame, or guilt. Maybe there’s something you’ve done or wish you would have done. God wants to change our story. He is committed to destroying the enemy of regret in our life and helping us cross into a new place. He wants to change our story.

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| **QUESTION**  What does verse [18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is43.18) mean to you? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why does God remind His followers that He can do something new in their life? |

**Reflect**

These few verses cover a much longer story told in the Book of Exodus. God helped His people change their story from one of slavery to freedom. He wants to do the same in our life. He wants us to be free from the bondage of sin and regrets. His hope in all of this is that we would honor His gift of new life. You see, your story doesn’t have to end the way you think. God has a much better plan, and it begins with being reminded of all He has already done.

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| **QUESTION**  What’s one thing God has done in your life? |

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| **QUESTION**  What’s one new thing you would like for God to do in your life to help improve your story? |

**Activate**

Spend time asking God to direct your story in the days ahead. You may be going through a difficult time at home or school. Know that God desires a better outcome. He wants to do something new. Consider taking a few moments each day this week to think about how He wants your life to be better.

**Pray**

Dear God, I want my life to go in the direction You choose. I want You to direct it because I may mess it up. So, please help me to embrace You as You change my story. Thank You for reminding me of Your delight in doing new things in people. Do that in me. Amen.

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**Day 3: Strong and Courageous**

**Engage**

Read [Joshua 1:1–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jos1.1-9).

**Consider**

Moses, the guy who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, was dead. His servant Joshua was now in charge of the Israelites. In our story, we see a conversation between Joshua and God. The Lord God was giving Joshua his new assignment. Joshua’s story was now changing. Pursuing a different outcome often comes with new challenges and opportunities. This is what was going on in Joshua’s life.

Perhaps you want the old stuff in your life to be gone, but you’re not sure what lies ahead. Could it be that God wants to not only redirect your story, but do so in a way you can’t imagine? What if He wants to give you greater purpose? Don’t think that the reason God brings change in our life is to simply change us. It could be because He has a greater plan for you.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think God had to continue to remind Joshua to be strong and courageous? |

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| **QUESTION**  What did God tell Joshua to do to be successful in his new assignment? |

**Reflect**

Many people fall into one of two categories in their relationship with God—trying to do it all alone or sitting back and expecting God to do everything. Both are wrong ways to approach life. Remember, we’re in a *relationship* with God. A relationship means two or more are involved. In this case, it’s God and you. As a result, we have a part in the change God brings our way, and God has a part, too.

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| **QUESTION**  Do you tend to be more independent and say, “I’ll do it,” or do you expect God to bring about all change? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does God want you to do to redirect your story and make it better? |

**Activate**

Take a lesson out of Joshua’s life. Apply verse [8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jos1.8) to your life by always keeping the Bible as a part of your life. For the remainder of your time going through these devotions and meeting with your group, do your best to never miss a day reading the Bible. Make it a part of you, even if you only read a verse or two.

**Pray**

Dear God, I’m in on this. Help me to get in the Bible every day. Help me to be successful as You direct my steps. Change me however You want. Help me to recognize and follow through on my part. Amen.

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**Day 4: From Shepherd to King**

**Engage**

Read [1 Samuel 16:1–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Sa16.1-13).

**Consider**

Imagine taking care of sheep. Not an exciting job, for sure. But David, the youngest son of the family, spent many days and nights with the sheep. Occasionally, he would have to fight off a lion or bear. Most days were probably pretty quiet and lonely. That is, until one day his entire world changed dramatically.

What about you? Do you find yourself spending many days doing things you don’t enjoy? Could it be that God is preparing you for a change in direction? Are you in a time meant to prepare you? To fully embrace God with our life, we have to trust Him. We need to understand that God knows what He’s doing and that His timing is perfect.

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| **QUESTION**  How many sons of Jesse passed by Samuel before he got to David? |

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| **QUESTION**  How does the Bible describe David when he appeared? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does that description suggest about David? |

**Reflect**

We have a part to play in God’s redirecting our life. We must be ready. On any day, God could change our story. Our role is to do the best we can to be ready for the change that is about to happen. David could have grown angry or bitter because he had to care for the sheep, but instead, he used it to make himself better. Caring for sheep was a training ground for him. God does the same in our life, too.

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| **QUESTION**  What is going on in your life that might be preparation for what God wants to do in the days ahead? |

**Activate**

Write out where you see God taking you. What are you going through now that could be preparation? Write it down in your Bible or journal, or make a note on your phone for you to see later and be reminded of God at work in your life.

**Pray**

Dear God, I realize You are always preparing me for life ahead. I have no idea what is ahead, just as David didn’t know everything ahead for him. Help me to not worry about the future, but instead to do my best to prepare myself for it. If You can use a young shepherd boy and make him a king, You can do something amazing in me. Thank You! Amen.

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**Day 5: Wouldn’t Have Believed It**

**Engage**

Read [Acts 9:1–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.1-9), [18–22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.18-22).

**Consider**

There are many radical shifts in the lives of people in the Bible. In the Old Testament, Joseph went from being hated by his brothers to prison to the Pharoah’s right-hand man. In the New Testament, the disciples were each doing their own thing when Jesus appeared and completely changed their lives. The list goes on.

Here we have the story of Saul, who was later called the apostle Paul. For a time, he was known as a great persecutor of the Church. He had Christians imprisoned just for following Jesus. Perhaps you have hated church or made fun of those who followed Jesus. What is your life like now? Is it different? Are you like Saul from the first verses you read? Or have you allowed God to redirect your life in a radical way?

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think God went to such extreme measures to get Saul’s attention? |

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| **QUESTION**  Would you have had a tough time believing Saul had changed, even if you had seen all this happen? Why or why not? |

**Reflect**

Making such a radical change can be tough. Often we don’t want to change our thinking because, in doing so, we have to admit we were wrong. Saul had to change his mind about who Jesus was and what he believed about Jesus. Once we change, people may struggle to accept the change in our life. Perhaps this has happened in your life. Perhaps people have a difficult time accepting the fact that you have made a radical shift.

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| **QUESTION**  What’s been the biggest change in you since turning your life over to Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  Have you seen others struggle to believe you’ve fully changed due to your relationship with Jesus? |

**Activate**

Take a moment to pray for those who are struggling to believe your life is different. Perhaps a parent, sibling, or close friend doubts you are different and that you want to live differently. Pray that they would not only see the change in your life, but that they would be open to a radical redirection in their own life.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, I pray for my family and friends who need Your change in their life. Help me to demonstrate to them the deep changes You’ve made in my life. Open their eyes to the changes in me and other believers. And then, Jesus, help them to desire change in their own life as well. Amen.