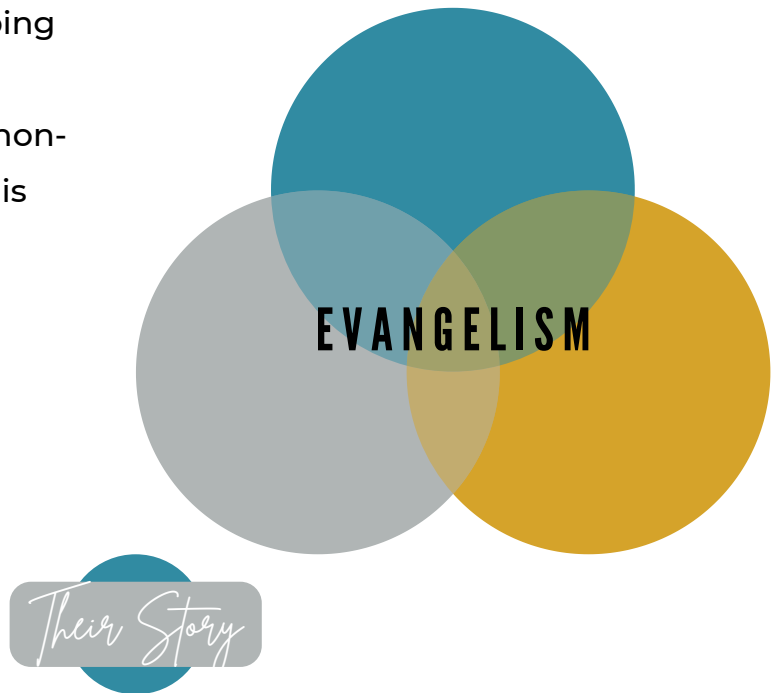


Three stories is a “tool” for helping believers to make connections between the gospel and their non-Christian friend’s life. This step is often the hardest to make in sharing our faith.

1st Story: ***Their Story***

2nd Story: ***My Story***

3rd Story: ***God’s Story***



The first story involves learning about your friend’s life. They will probably not just tell you that story unless you take the initiative and show genuine interest by asking lots of questions & listening. Of course, these questions will more naturally be asked over a period of time often while doing other things together. As with all natural relationships those questions will grow deeper over time.

Level 1 : Surface/facts

- What brought you to this city, university, etc
- How long have you been here? How has your experience been? What has made it hard? What is the best part of being here?
- What are your hobbies/interests outside of school?
- Where were living before you came here? Where were you born? What is your hometown famous for? What do most people do there for a living?
- Tell me about your family, your parents, siblings, grandparents. What did your father/mother do for a living while you were growing up? What was your family life like?
- What do you want to do when you graduate? What would be your perfect job?

Level 2: Relationships

- What do you miss about your hometown/country/family? What do you miss the most?
- Which of your family members do you miss the most? Why?
- Were you closer to your mom or dad or someone else while growing up?
- Who was one of the most influential people in your life while you were a child, in elementary school, middle, high school, college? How did they influence you?
- What did you most like to study when you were younger? Are you still doing that now? Why or why not?
- Who was your best friend? Why did you like them? What did you do together?
- Did you have any romantic relationships in the past? How did that turn out? Was that a generally good experience? What would you do differently the next time?

Level 3: Life Questions

- What would you like your life to look like in 5/10 years? Where would you like to live? Why?
- Do you want to be married? How will you know the right person to marry?
- How much money do you want to make per year? How much do you think you will need to make your life comfortable/happy?
- What do you think will give your life the most meaning? A good job, money, success, good marriage, family, or ???
- What is your happiest memory growing up? Tell me about it.
- What is the worst thing that happened to you? How did you respond?
- Do you have any fears? What do you worry about the most? How do you stop worrying?
- Did you grow up with any sort of religion or faith? Was anyone in your family religious? Which religion? Have you ever met someone who claimed to be a Christian? What did you think about them?
- Do you believe in God, or a Supreme being who rules over the world? Why or why not?
- What do you think happens after death? Does the thought of death concern you in any way? Why or why not?

There are many more questions that could be asked. See "Questions to Uncover Thirst".



The second story is your story. In all likelihood, as you begin to ask them many questions, they will also want to know how you answer the same questions. The key here is to tell your life story, that includes many of the questions above, in a way that they can understand without using any religious language (Christianese) that would be foreign to them. You would also want to share what the process was that God used to bring you to the point of faith. Was it a fear of death, a need for forgiveness, a purpose in life, relational pain, shame, or what? Describe for them when and how God brought you to the point that you trusted in Jesus for life now and in the future.



The third story is God's story or the Gospel message. It is that which delivers us from our past, our sins, wounds, fears and shame. It also gives us a hope for the future because of an ongoing relationship with God for all eternity through faith in Jesus the King.

At this point of having shared your story and being aware of many things in their story, we pray and ask God to show us where their story and God's story intersect. This intersection may not initially be what we would more narrowly define as the Gospel, 1 Cor 15:3-5, but it is a starting point. From here we can introduce them to the Scriptures and God's thoughts regarding the most pressing felt needs in their life. In so doing, we pray that God's Word bears fruit, speaks to their heart and that the Spirit draws them into wanting to know more about God and His desire for them to become His child.



THE INTERSECTION

<i>FELT NEEDS</i>	<i>GOD'S STORY/ THE GOSPEL</i>
Guilt, shame, need for forgiveness	There is forgiveness
Fear of death	Promise of eternal life
Need to be truly loved unconditionally	Grace and adoption
To be significant, jobs, career	Children of the King
Purpose in life/ How to live	Servant of the King (John 10:10)
Relationship/Marriage	Perfect love/ Bride of Christ
Anxiety/Depression/Worry	Peace
Love of money	Money cannot satisfy soul
Decisions, future, luck	God rules over our lives
What is true?	God tells us what is true
Trials, suffering in life	God has a purpose, He is good

As felt needs come to light in your friends story, prayerfully share a thought or two regarding what God says about that issue. Consider inviting your friend to look further at what the Bible says regarding that topic. Then invite them to continue reading the Bible with you in an investigative study that more fully explains what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

If they decline your offer to look at the Bible together, continue to share your story of how God is making a difference in your life today and ask more questions about their story. Continue the process of asking God to bring into the light some connection between their life and the gospel.