



SOUL CRAVINGS: Topic #4:

Telling Your Story

This is the 4th of 5 weekly topics for individuals or small groups @ South Abbotsford that introduces a creative approach to relational evangelism in partnership with Power to Change

WELCOME: (10 minutes)

Biographies tell the fascinating life stories of remarkable people. Biographical movies do the same thing on the big screen. What biography have you read or watched that has impacted your life? Why?

WRITING YOUR STORY: (60 minutes)

Read through Acts 26:1-30 as a group or with quiet reflection personally.

(Editors note: the writing of our stories tonight will take a good chunk of time- so you choose to bypass the Scripture reading and study tonight- or just refer to it briefly. Consider going straight to the actions point below).

Our life stories are powerful when they give witness to the transformation that Jesus has accomplished in our lives. When Paul is brought before King Agrippa in our text, he simply tells his story and it has a powerful impact on royalty.

1. What can we learn from the way Paul told his life story that would be a model for us to follow?

ACTION POINTS:

If you read through the Soul Cravings Prequel, you will note that McManus appeals to the fact that people everywhere crave the same things. Among our primary cravings are the drive for intimacy, meaning and destiny. With that as background, consider how your own story interfaces with these cravings.

- Take time tonight to try and capture the highlights of **your life story in just 3 minutes.** That may seem impossible, but it is amazing what you can communicate in just 100 words.
- **Why would we do this?** When we initiate conversations with people, we never know when we may get the opportunity to speak about the essential core of our life. Open doors to speak about our life often are the dividends of lots of listening beforehand. But when we get the opportunity, it is usually in casual conversation and it will need to be short, and not an “eruption” that scares people away.
- Developing a 3-minute life story and then memorizing it can be a powerful tool that God can use. We may have opportunity to use it in its entirety, or parts of it that fit the context of the conversation, or share more deeply on any aspect of our story as God opens the doors, and as people ask us questions.
- **Using either intimacy, meaning or destiny create right now a rough draft of your story.** You can roughly divide it into three paragraphs that would follow this template:
 - 1) The craving you had for _____ before you found Christ.

- 2) How you came to Christ and he met your craving for _____.
- 3) How Christ has met your need for _____ in the here and now!

Group Exercise:

- **If you are meeting in a group- go around the circle and share your story. Get feedback from each other (both negative and positive) to make it as positive as it can be!**

Action Points:

- Go back to the **“Friend List”** you made last week. Discuss together how these friendships are developing over the past week. Take time to **pray together** for these friends. If possible, create a compiled list that is distributed to everybody to take home and pray over daily.
- Consider how you might build on the relationships you have by both offering them a copy of Soul Cravings this week, and/or sharing your life story of how God has met one of those cravings.

PLANNING AHEAD:

- Keep in mind that the **Soul Cravings booklets** are available for you to distribute to others at a cost of \$3 each at South Abbotsford Church.
- **Soul Cravings Evangelism Training:** Come and take part in Part II of our unique relational evangelism training on April 25 at 9:45am at South Abbotsford Church. Bring your booklet, and come as a small group if possible. Please note that child-care will be provided for nursery through elementary ages!
- Your Life Group/small group may want to **invite people to a 3-week exploration of the cravings themes in your home!** Resources will be provided for this. If you should chose this direction, when you give out the books to your friends, just let them know that you they are invited to discuss together the themes of intimacy, meaning and destiny at the dates you choose! You can provide a book for everyone who comes, and can begin each session with a video clip of Erwin McManus from the website www.icravechange.com

Stay tuned for our last Soul Cravings Topic next week!