



Discernment for Faith Story Sharing

God moves through our lives, touching us in ways that we notice and ways that sometimes seem less obvious.

Many times we share those stories with those around us. Sometimes we keep them to ourselves.

When we share the ways that God has moved, we identify our own stories of God's amazing love and we may also help another person identify God's movement in their own lives.

1. Reflect on your life as a screenwriter might.
 - What are the significant events?
 - What changed you?
 - What are the times you most remember?
2. Create a type of movie storyboard of your life by drawing each of these events on an individual sticky note or create a written outline. Do not include details but the main people, places, etc. This is the first broad idea of what the movie may look like. Think about the Bible being a collection of stories about significant events in God's movement. We could create a timeline or movie series of the biblical story with many scenes. There would be significant events along the journey.
3. Take time to reflect on a part of the biblical story. The narrative of Samuel and Eli, for example.
Read I Samuel 3:1-10.
 - i. What did you hear?
 - ii. How do you hear God?
 - iii. Who helps you identify when God is calling and when it may be our own personal wants or those of another person?
 - iv. Look back at your storyboard. Are your stories just between you and God or involving community?
 - v. Look for God's movement in the scenes of your storyboard and add your spiritual experiences if they are not already included.
4. Use your storyboard to find one of the stories that truly resonates and in which you can identify God moving/speaking.
 - How can you share this story?
 - How would you tell it to someone who has never heard it?

We learn who God is through the biblical story and through the ways that God moves in the lives of individuals and communities. Telling our stories gives us the chance to identify God's movement. The experiences of God moving/speaking while listening to the stories of others helps us do the same. This discernment is about improving our relationship with God while we identify those moments.

