



Changing the Narrative June 16th / June 17th

Speaker: **Dr. Mark Batterson**
Scripture: **Revelation 12:10-11**

Sermon Summary:

Jesus will build his church and the Holy Spirit empowers us to play a role. When we know the story of God and listen to the stories around us, it helps us understand better the part that God is inviting us to play.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What did God reveal to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. What is one element of God's character you learned?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. **ICEBREAKER:** What is the meaning of your name?
2. We all have an internal monologue - What is yours? Does it need to shift? If so, how will you do so?
3. If 80% of our daily thoughts are negative, then what are you intentionally doing to make them more positive and more biblically sound?
4. Pastor Mark stated, "Everyone is a library. When you meet them, don't just take one book off the shelf. Instead, love them enough to hear another story." How can you do this practically? Who do you need to love better by hearing more of their stories?
5. **CHALLENGE:** Spend some time this week to write down your testimony. Share it with a friend or someone in your group.

Activate Challenge

Share Compelling Stories:

In addition to the story that God is writing throughout human history on a global scale, what narrative is he writing in your own life? This activity will help group members explore how to tell a compelling story using the testimony God has given them

1. Choose an overarching theme for YOUR story. Below, you will find some themes you can choose from:
 - From Bondage to Liberation
 - From Isolation to Connection
 - From Fear to Faith
 - From Darkness to Light
 - From Brokenness to Restoration
2. Ask yourself the following question: **How has God been working in my life?**
3. Breakout into groups of 2-3 and share your story aloud or write your story down to share.
4. Discuss with your group on how to better craft your story
 - What elements of your story would cause people to lean in and listen more?
 - What is the “good” news from my story?

Share Inviting Stories:

We cannot tell inviting stories if we don't first demonstrate the humility of an insatiable curiosity. These challenges will help members build the capacity to tell inviting stories.

1. **Prayer Walk Your Neighborhood:** Take a stroll through your neighborhood and pray. If you don't know what to pray for, begin by asking God, “What is your story for this neighborhood?” and “How can I pray the plot forward?”
2. **Learn the Story of your Neighborhood:** Find someone you can ask about the history of your community. Take the time to listen and learn about the neighborhood's story through their lens.

Share Relevant Stories

How can we be relevant if we don't understand the groundwork of what God has already done in our midst?

Create a Neighborhood 101: Using the questions found in Chapter 2, research the story of your neighborhood. Create a document, brochure, or pamphlet that highlights your neighborhood. Feel free **share any finished products with your Small Groups Director.**

RESOURCES

VIDEO: **Racial Tension, Reconciliation, and the Church**
Latasha Morrison
<https://youtu.be/tg8TuQNCIPc>

BOOK: **Neighborhood Mapping**
Dr. John Fuder & Ray Bakke