OCBF
OAK CLIFF
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Unlocked
Discovering Your Story
–Romans 1:16

INTRODUCTION

People in our world today are constantly sharing things on social media that are actively destroying them—bragging about intoxication, worshipping greed, normalizing witchcraft, embracing different identities, mocking God with profanity, and more. They are loud, bold, and completely unashamed to put it on display. Meanwhile, believers hold the cure to brokenness—the treasure of heaven—and we whisper in the corner hoping no one is offended. If darkness is unashamed, then why is the light hiding under a basket?

Paul embodies what a believer should be—someone who is boldly unashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16). Despite all the persecution he faced, he was grateful for all he had received from God and was eager to preach the gospel. We are also called to tell others about Christ. Although we may share Paul's conviction, we may not share his competency. To have that competency, first we must know what the gospel is. It is the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sin and the gift of eternal life. Second, we can share our story. We simply need to come clean about who we were before Christ and describe how He rescued us and transformed our lives. Then we need to offer an invitation for others to experience the same thing. The more our conviction meets our competency, the more we will be operating in our commission.

Through the gospel, God has given you unimaginable treasures. As you ponder these treasures, it seems unimaginable to be ashamed of the gospel. You can be proud of the gospel, and therefore show it off, share it, and be motivated by it. At the same time, you cannot be ashamed of your sin and the darkness you lived in before you came to Christ. Be prepared to open up to people with your full story. If you are looking for revival, look no further than sharing your story of salvation with others. Watch how God moves powerfully in the lives of those you encounter.

GETTING STARTED

1. What kinds of destructive things do you see people sharing on social media?

2. What kinds of cures and solutions do people ignore, choosing instead to continue in sin?

LET'S GET PERSONAL

1. Can you share a time that you were too afraid to share the gospel or a time that you were unashamed to share the gospel? What was the outcome?

2. What primarily keeps you from showing off and living out the gospel?

3. Would you say that you are stronger in conviction of the gospel or in competency to share the gospel? How would you like to grow in one of these areas?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

1. Take time to write down your story of how you were blind before you met Christ, how Christ found you, and how Christ changed your life. Who can you share your story with this week?

2. Practice the invitation part of the story and how you would pray with someone to receive Christ. Who can you invite to church or a Bible study with you this week?

3. ***Want to dig deeper?*** Take a look at the following passages: John 3:16; Psalm 85:6; 2 Chronicles 7:1; Acts 4:31; Matthew 5:17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 11:25; 9:25; Acts 22:2-4; 26:10; 1 Timothy 1:13; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10, 13; 8:38-39; John 4:28-29, 39; Ephesians 2:4-5; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:4-5; John 10:28; Revelation 21:3-4; 1 Peter 1:3-4; Genesis: 22:12.

RENEW YOUR MIND

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – ***John 3:16***