**Talking Jesus Course part 4**

**‘Our Story’**

Telling our story authentically and honestly can be life changing for the people closest to you.

**Read: 1 Peter 3:15**

**Watch film 4** ‘Sharing your story’ (optional – I’m not sure this film adds anything to the subject being discussed today!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6oFqT2usRk&list=PLiOL-yjrmgvx1OPwyUZnhsXe-JrkDOguZ&index=1>

You might not think your life has the makings of a best seller – but your story is powerful. Each time you tell your story you are giving a gift of yourself. As we tell our story we flesh out or ‘incarnate’ the message about Jesus in a tangible way. After watching the film, think who are the people you could give the precious gift of your personal story.

**Watch Teaching Story 4.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEowOM4GT8A&list=PLiOL-yjrmgvx1OPwyUZnhsXe-JrkDOguZ&index=9>

**Discuss:**

1.For many of us, telling our story is new territory. As Andrew says in session 4 start by thinking about your audience. **Who would you like to share your story with…** every good story has a key ‘audience of one’ … so work out who that *one* might be. And remember you don’t have to tell your whole life history. Be authentic. Listen well. Be interested in people’s lives and ask good questions like Jesus did.

2. What’s your experience of living life following Jesus? **Think about one example of God’s work in your life that connects with the story of the person listening to you.** Try practising opening lines for the 5 different people you have been praying for.

3. When you have the start of your story, then comes the middle…what happened? Followed by…What God did…**What was the difference God made?** And that’s it! Remember, keep it short, use language that is appropriate to the person listening…..no long words or Christian jargon! Of course, most of all remember it’s a conversation not a sermon. And if they ask a question and you don’t know the answer, be honest. Just say you don’t know but you could find out.

4. So that’s the theory. Now it’s time to practise. Imagine your ‘audience of one’.. one of the 5 you have been praying for. **Listen to each other as you tell your story to your ‘audience of one’.** You’ll soon see everyone has an interesting story to tell.

**Challenge**: Let’s make sure we are not just living the Christian life for our own benefit – but also telling others about the difference Jesus makes. Be intentional about sharing faith. How can we live lives that provoke questions? Let’s always be prepared to give an answer for the hope we have.