



Session 4: Creating a culture of community



Preparation

- *Remind the appointed member(s) before the session that they will be sharing their story.*
 - *Ensure your technology is set up and “Small Group Resource: Session 4” on the DVD or from the online resource centre is ready to play.*
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Setting the scene (5 min)

If you can't show the video (found in the back of this resource or online at www.church.whatsyourstory.org.za), read “Creating a culture of community” below aloud to your group.



Watch: Creating a culture of community

OR

Read: Creating a culture of community

Taking the courageous step of getting to know another person's story is good. Making a habit of sharing in people's stories and, in so doing, creating a culture of relational community, is even better.

We've made it to the last session of our journey. Over the past three sessions we've learnt about how to create safe spaces for story-sharing, how to Ask. Listen. Tell., how to get to grips with our own stories, and how to get to know the stories of people beyond our church. We've heard some

of the stories shared by brave members in our group, and we ourselves have taken the courageous step getting to know people beyond our group.

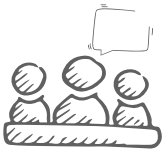
All around South Africa, and beyond our borders, thousands of people have encountered and been transformed by What's Your Story? We've heard stories about how this tool is impacting individuals, families, churches, youth groups and even entire communities.

In our last session we'll try to answer the question, "Where to from here?" We'll also consider ways in which we can use this tool to create a culture of story-sharing so that everywhere we are, we make an effort to build intentional relationships.



Watch: A culture of story-sharing video (3 min)

Show the video (found in the back of this resource or online at www.church.whatsyourstory.org.za)



Group discussion (30 min)

1. *In what practical ways can we create a culture of community through story-sharing in our families, small group, and broader congregation? (Think about things like weekly meetings, new members, etc).*
2. *What's one commitment you'd like to make in your own life when it comes to story-sharing? Which value(s) would help you live this out?*

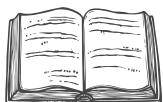


Tell: Member shares story (10-20 min)

The remaining group member(s) shares their story. If you haven't been able to cover everyone's story, consider how you can incorporate their stories as part of your next meetings.

After the member has shared their story, you may want to affirm them in one of the following ways:

- Say an encouraging word or identify something that inspired you from their story.
- Say a short prayer, thanking God for the person's life and asking for His direction in some of the areas of challenge they may have shared about.
- Write an encouraging word or blessing for them to take home.
- If time permits, you can offer the opportunity to ask the person questions.



Read: Mark 12:29-31 (5 min)

Read the scripture together.

We've taken the first step in showing love to our "neighbours" in this group, and beyond, through taking an interest in their lives and their stories. We've accepted the challenge to build the kind of church and small groups that make people feel welcomed, accepted, heard and connected. It's really not that hard or complicated – it starts with one simple question:

"What's your story?"



Now let's go to our families, our church, schools, workplaces, and to the ends of the earth and build communities of love, the way Jesus intended.



Close in prayer.